

Milestone 5

Retrospective

The RateMyCourse website development has been constructed fluidly throughout the past couple of weeks. In these weeks of development, Team Course Warriors had many meetings in the CSEL, Norlin Library, and UMC. There were many hours of implementation to gather necessary data, populating databases, connecting the server, and creating a dynamic UI.

In order to gather the data, Team Course Warriors have been researching necessary data that students could possibly want when choosing courses to take. The team happened to find an excel spreadsheet containing the FCQs collected from courses at CU Boulder since 2006. We then implemented this data into several Mysql databases constructed on Google Cloud Console. These relational databases held information on course names, grade distributions, GPA averages, and course difficulty. The tables were related through the course ID. After the databases were populated, the team split into two main groups: one focusing on front-end development and the other on back-end server development.

The front-end team developed a sleek UI including a background picture of the football field and a live search bar. Then they also constructed a results page to go with the search result. Though the design of this page has not yet been created, it will be a collection of links to another resulting page of graphs and charts.

The back-end team developed a server connection from client side to server side. As none of the team had experience connecting servers it was a difficult challenge. But after many hours of trial and error, one of the team members was able to find that XAMPP, a cross-platform web server solution, was necessary. After the connection to the server was finalized, the team was able to work on linking the results from the search engine to a contents page.

All in all, meeting as a group multiple times a week have helped CourseWarriors develop a working prototype. Also working in two different focused groups have been a necessary procedure in implementation. However there are some things that the team could do better, such as sharing how implementation was developed as well as being more productive in the group meetings.

The team has come up with some ideas for making the RateMyCourse project better. One would be to add more color and definition to the website. Another is to have more user feedback and provide more demos to students around campus.