

PHP OOP Rest API

Midterm Project

Creating a Rest API using Object Oriented PHP was not something I had done before. I am a 41-year-old, non-traditional student, who has been attending FHSU part-time over the past three years to complete my undergraduate degree in web and app development. 2023 is set to be my graduating year, and this semester found me looking forward to gaining solid programming skills, as I recently landed a dream-come-true job within a software development company during Fall of 2022. I encountered numerous learning opportunities throughout the course of the PHP OOP Rest API midterm project, and have been fortunate to be a part of an extremely engaged class and instructor, as well as a community of experienced developers at work who have been willing to challenge me as I struggled through this project.

The first set of challenges I faced at the onset of this semester related to a severe lack of exposure to and practice with the fundamental tools and concepts involved in programming. I know about Git and GitHub, understand what servers are and can set up a basic environment on my local machine, but this project plunged me into a realm I have not yet encountered. I found that setting up Git and GitHub, Repl, and Render.com were the most difficult challenges to overcome regarding the midterm (I got stuck more than a few times and had to ask many questions and browse the web to move forward). In the introductory video for INF 653, it was mentioned that these are all industry standard-type exercises. I wish there had been more of these concepts covered in my other classes, but I am thankful for the crash course I am getting this semester!

The second category of difficulties I faced related to my lack of knowledge with the PHP language. Understanding logic has always been tough for me personally, but I think what I've been needing is simply more practice making things with code. This project provided just that opportunity! Several kind and helpful mentors from work and elsewhere, combined with the ongoing wealth of information provided via Blackboard and Discord helped me start to slowly but surely connect the dots with the PHP code as the project progressed. The tutorials by Brad Traversy that preceded the project really did an excellent job of helping me see how all the parts in an API come together to make it work, and I used the code created by the tutorial as a guide during the actual midterm. Although this project proved seriously difficult for me, I'm really glad to have gone through it, and I'm a better developer because of it!