Week 11 – 100% focused on the final project

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# Weekly Blockers

I always see the general comments about managing time. We could just smile at that one and say, ‘that’s life’ but maybe it is worth a deeper acknowledgement of that issue. This is a challenge that is not going to go away with the end of the semester or even graduation. Work, church callings, family, continuing education will always contend for your limited resource of time. [Parkinson’s Law](https://www.economist.com/news/1955/11/19/parkinsons-law) has been around since the 50s (‘work expands so as to fill the time available for its completion’). More tasks are elastic in nature than we might think. Give yourself a time limit. Allocate time to your priorities. Better that you do it than just let it happen. The ‘natural clock is an enemy to man’. Master your time, don’t let it master you. As a Bishop, I let the appointments control me. I was a ‘dedicated’ Bishop and gave my time to the calling. Consequently, my wife never had a clue when I might be home and the kids didn’t always get to see dad on Sundays. Sister James counseled with me, and I made some changes. I instructed my Executive Secretary, ‘give me 30 minutes per appointment until this time and then I am done’. It didn’t always work but I did have more dinners at home and baked more cookies with the kids on Sunday. It is not always possible to say I will solve this coding problem in X number of minutes. But limiting the time spent on any problem or activity might force the ‘natural student’ to not dilly dally so much and focus on the problem. Just a thought. Here is another observation. Dual monitors are great but it is so easy to be distracted with multiple tabs. Make your editor full screen on one monitor and the browser full screen on the other with just one tab. It actually makes a difference in my work results.

What are you doing next week, not week 11, but in general

Often you answer that question with the most vague of responses. For your! own benefit put in specific tasks. Hold yourself accountable. List individual tasks. Then you can post it some place visible and work towards that during the week. No more ‘I’m working on the CSS’ or ‘I need to do something with my API’. Let’s see mentions of the transform or transition you need to create. Or the JSON array you need to work with to generate your HTML.

# Quakes

Some of you had troubles with the Quakes code. There are several places in the code where the radius is set to a default of 100. Probably the most important one is QuakesController.js line 28. The dropdown list is defaulted to 100. If you are lucky enough to live within 100 km of an earthquake zone (evidently, I am not here in Texas), then you will get a list of earthquakes. Otherwise, nothing is returned, as many of you experienced. You will need to address this default situation to generate a list of earthquakes in your area. Additionally, you should set the beginning date to a few years ago to make sure you get a fair number returned. I have not verified the repo since it was first put up. It may have gotten fixed.

# Projects

Since the clock is ticking away to the end of the semester you really need to be focused on your application. If you are not sure of what to do, get that decision made immediately. If you know what you want to do but you don’t know how to approach the problem you have given yourself, talk to your team. If you are still stuck. Let’s see if we can get 10 or 15 minutes together as soon as possible to poke at the problem and get you started with a path to completion.

Remember, I am not expecting something huge. I want to see that you can apply the topics of this class to a problem.

# #InspirationalMessage

I have taught at BYU-Idaho for 20+ semesters. I have seen so many come through here with the same hopes and fears. I have seen a lot of anxiety and a lot of joy when a problem finally evaporates and leaves behind understanding. You are not alone. It is hard and at times scary. I had a few panic attacks in my education (and career). You can do it. I have seen what BYU-Idaho students are made of, and it is tough stuff. Grit is a big topic lately for pod casts and lecture circuit speakers. You have it. If you made it this far you have grit. Keep at it. You are the kind of person that will give BYU-Idaho a great reputation.

May the good code be yours!

Bro. James