Cover

====================================================

This project was a challenge to see what I could do with API’s and ReactJS with no prior knowledge of React. It is an example of what I can accomplish in five days.

Website Beginning

====================================================

I was challenged by a company to build a small project. This project would involve using some new technologies, and it was a test to see what I could do. I was very interested in using this new technology and was excited to add it to my project list.

The Challenge:

====================================================

Create a basic website that shows launch data for SpaceX rocket missions in a grid/table.

Your web application should:

\* Display the date and time of each mission, the rocket name, a link to the cargo manifest, and whether the launch was a success.

\* Display the time of the mission in Central Time (CT)

\* Order the launches in reverse chronological order

\* For each launch, include a column that ranks the payload mass, with the heaviest payload being rank 1

\* Work in any modern browser (i.e. Chrome, Firefox, IE10+, Safari, etc.)

\* Use the React JavaScript framework

My Story:

==================================================

I have a background in Java Core and Visual Basic. I had just finished Centriq Training, learning Full Stack web development with .Net. I had one other course in web technologies the used NodeJS. I have some good skills, but this project was definitely challenging every step of the way.

I was mostly successful and found the real challenge was dealing with React in the short amount of time I had for the project. I will revisit this project after I have taken React classes and have more experience with JSX.

I chose AG-Grid as my grid product. The recommended grid product only came with a 30 day free trial. Since I wanted this project on my website for more 30 days, I went with a product that had a community version.

My Timeline:

==================================================

Friday Afternoon – I received the challenged and started looking at the date in Json format and working on the Javascript call to retrieve the data.

Saturday – No work on project – planned trip with my wife.

Sunday – I decided to make sure I could complete all the data requirements, so I built a version out of HTML which I have displayed on the website.

Monday – I finished the HTML version. I started working with NodeJS and React.

Tuesday – I finished working with various grid products in the morning and settled on AG-Grid.

I figured how to get a React program deployed on my website.

Wednesday – I hit the wall. I started to work with the way React handles Json. This is where all the problems occurred, probably because I have never worked with React or JSX. From what I have seen, React will load the Json and store it in the state. The issue is, the SpaceX data had lots of changes that needed to take place before the grid displayed it. All examples of setState were basic and would not come close to what I needed to do. Some of the setState examples never worked in my React program. I spent a couple of hours building and playing with a REST API with express. I wanted to see if I could filter the SpaceX data. It was apparent that this was not the right way to go. Time to call it a day and go with the fields I could display without issues. I realized this project required much more time and knowledge.

Thursday – No work on project – part-time job.

Friday – Bring the project to a close. Build the website and finish documentation.

Conclusion

==================================================

This was a really cool challenge, and I am glad I had the opportunity to take it on. I was very successful in most of the project, including getting React to work, working with AG-grid and NodeJS, and accomplishing instructions using HTML. I had issues filtering data in React. I needed more knowledge in React and JSX. I am looking forward to taking classes to gain this knowledge and making this project a complete success. I face challenges with determination.

Links

==================================================

API Info

<https://github.com/r-spacex/SpaceX-API>

API Call

https://api.spacexdata.com/v3/launches

React installing and getting demo running

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ke90Tje7VS0>

Some React state samples

Restful API

<https://medium.com/@etiennerouzeaud/how-create-an-api-restfull-in-express-node-js-without-database-b030c687e2ea>