Cover

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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 day.

Website Beginning

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I was challenged by a company to build a small project using some new technologies to see what I could do. It sounded very interesting, and I decided it would be something to add to my project list.

The Challenge:

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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.)

To gauge your ability to learn, for this project please use the React JavaScript framework.

My Story:

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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. So this was a uphill challenge on all fronts.

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 have a 2.0 version of this project after I take react classes and spend more time with JSX.

My Timeline:

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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 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 figure 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 and 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, my Json had lots of changes that needed to take place before I just let the grid display 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 to see if I could use it as a filter for the space x 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 and admit I needed a lot more time to work with this product.

Thursday – No work on project – Part Time Job.

Friday – Bring the project to a close. Build the web site and write up.

Conclusion

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This was a really cool challenge, and I am glad I had the time to take it on. I was very successful in most of the project except when it came to using React and working with JSX. There was just too many things to know in a couple of days of work. I will be taking classes to learn exactly how it works and finish this project with a 2.0 version. I don’t give up.

Links

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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>