Professional Self-Assessment

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I am 23-year-old Business Analyst finishing up a degree in Computer Science. I have spent the last 4 years of my life learning a great deal of book knowledge about computer hardware and software as well as a great number of other things. As I am closing this chapter of my life, I am thinking back to the things I have learned in school and work.

I have learned that many things cannot be learned by reading a book. Somethings must be learned the hard way by making mistakes, but others can be learned by listening to mentors and receiving instruction. I learned early on in my career that it is much better to listen to and comprehend an issue before suggesting a solution. I unfortunately had to learn this one the hard way. As more of these hard lessons are learned, I feel more and more confident in my ability to apply the skills that I have learned in school.

I have found in recent months that many of my strengths are in the area of relating technology to business and have moved my focus to that area. My current role is in gathering business requirements from business users and putting it in language that the programmers can deliver on. I also manage the roll-out and acceptance testing of the finished product. The position has made collaboration with teammates a must and has improved my ability to communicate issues both in technology and business languages. This has also allowed me to get a wider view of the way tech and business mix and will likely be the path that my career takes me.

The strengths that I choose to show in these artifacts are more on the level of the technology that I used a programmer. Most of my programming work was with server-side reporting and I have added that as the second part of my project. Restful API binds the front end in the website with the database and allows for data to be entered and stored. Bottle is a widely used REST infrastructure that I have used at work. It allows for a simple and secure way to make API calls over the internet and data transmission.

A simple definition of the final project would start with the front end. The first artifact is a simple HTML/CSS/JavaScript website that just gives a simple way mark-up data and pictures. The JavaScript element allowed me to input an inline client-side function that enables the API call to the rest Server. The Rest server then takes that call and actually does the CRUD transaction with the database. The simple function of the Database is then to store the data and allow for the data to be returned to the client.

While this project is not the most complicated or clean, for me it is a representation of the path that I have taken over the past few years. It touched on topics that I have not reviewed in a long time and has made me think about how my understanding has changed. Most importantly, this exercise has forced me to look forward to my next steps and what I will do with what I have learned. I am looking forward to what lies ahead.