

John Deere Gatanela

Subject: Mobile Computing

My Reflection Journal

Topic: My Hands-on Dive into Cross-Platform Mobile Development

As part of my continuing journey to sharpen my programming arsenal, I challenged myself to explore mobile development using React Native and Expo. Coming from a PHP + AJAX background that I learned in course subject Advanced Systems Design and Implementation and introduction of the Advance Cross Platform that one of my course subjects also to show the overview of that React Native with his competitor the Flutter, I knew this wouldn't be easy—but I also knew I wouldn't stop until I made it work.

Through exploring what react native is, I learned how this tools work specifically the fundamentals of it, the platform Expo Go to run in Android device for testing and emulation, I oversee the output which is possible just by my dedication that I could possibly develop an application that can run in different OS. And because of some background of using Dev Tools like VS code that helps me to integrate the program.

Challenges that I encountered was raw like the multiple error of wrong terminal directory usage, the use of npx command because of my macOS laptop. I also encountered problem in GitHub in push permissions (403 error) and its loading issues. But those setbacks didn't stop me – they push me to google, read the documentation of React Native and Expo Go, ask question specifically in ChatGPT and learn. I realize then that this is not just debugging the code; it was debugging my self.

The moment I saw “Hello World” pop up on my phone — not from a tutorial, but from my own cloned, edited app. Even fixing GitHub integration and pushed clean code — it hit different. That was my setup, my grind.

Both technical and soft skill gained me. From the fundamentals even it is the basic and overview it was a big help to my continues learning. The use of terminal/CLI specifically macOS gained me confident. The Git and GitHub repo handling, somehow I manage it and know a lot how to back up it online. The deployment from my laptop macOS to Android is a big gap that I made it closer. And, most of all I've practice again my patience, persistence and problem solving with the help of AI.

Hoping for more time to build my own screen from scratch and integrate it with backend and deploy working APK to google play. Also, to use it for my thesis that lately for me it is impossible but this time I see how large the area where I can integrate

my ideas not just in website based or the use of HTML + CSS and PHP + AJAX and MySQL but now with React Native with framework of Expo.

This experience reminded me that code doesn't always compile on the first try—and that's okay. Every failed install, every 403 Git error, every missing dependency was a puzzle piece. I didn't just build an app — I built discipline, resilience, and a clearer vision of my growth as a programmer. Thanks for the of ChatGPT.