

From March 16th to March 29th, I participated in the Tech Academy's C# Live Project. In this project we were helping develop a Web Page App for a local theater company using .Net Framework. Participating in this project really challenged my front end skills by taking on a sizable story that required styling 5 different pages with Bootstrap. Along the way I also participated in a series of standup meetings in practice of the SCRUM methodology. Here is a short synopsis of my challenges during this project.

Through most of my time on this project I struggled working with and learning CSS and Bootstrap, as mentioned above. However, my first story was a small back end challenge that asked me to fix a Drop Down Select List so that it would display the proper entry stored in the database whenever that entry was selected to be edited. The solution boiled down to using a more simple overload method that didn't require passing in the (IEnumerable<SelectListItem>)... as shown below.


Before:

```
<div class="form-group">
  <label class="inputLabel col-md-4">Username</label>
  <div class="col-md-10 formBox">
    @Html.DropDownList("dbUsers", (IEnumerable<SelectListItem>)ViewData["dbUsers"], "N/A", htmlAttributes: new { @class = "form-control" })
  </div>
</div>
```

After:

```
<div class="form-group">
  <label class="inputLabel col-md-4">Username</label>
  <div class="col-md-10 formBox">
    @Html.DropDownList("dbUsers", null, htmlAttributes: new { @class = "form-control" })
  </div>
</div>
```

The second story I chose was a considerably larger story that asked me to style all 5 pages for a particular section of the application where a guest could manage the shows they were seeing for an entire season (it's a website for a Theater). I wanted to choose a front end story as a challenge because I didn't have much experience in this area. This did prove to be a challenge, especially for one page in particular the Index Page, where the task was to create an interface to display the theater goers shows for the entire season. Initially I made a simple table interface.



Number of Seats Available	Is it Currently Booked?	Fall Production Name	Fall Production Date	Booked for Fall	Winter Production Name	Winter Production Date	Booked for Winter	Spring Production Name	Spring Production Date	Booked for Spring	Manage Your Reservations
5	✓	Jimmy and the Giant Peach	10-07-2020 12:00 AM	✓	Hamlet	12-07-2020 12:00 AM	✓	Harry Potter	03-07-2020 12:00 AM	✓	Edit Details Delete
5	✓	Othello	09-07-2020 12:00 AM	✓	The Hunchback of Notre Dame	01-07-2020 12:00 AM	✓	Wicked	04-01-2020 12:00 AM	✓	Edit Details Delete

My instructor, who was managing the project, was not impressed with this table and challenged me to design a more responsive page particularly for mobile devices . He suggested that I use Bootstrap Cards. As I mentioned above my skills in CSS were lacking, the front-end portion of the bootcamp was Months ago and It didn't particularly focus on Bootstrap. Upon trying to fit each row of info in my table into a card format I ran into a glaring problem. The "card" class was turning the entire section of the interface pitch black. At first I was confused and thought maybe a portion of the C# Razor code was interfering. However, once I smartened up and examined my page with developer tools in Chrome I realized that a previous student had overwritten the "card" class with a "background-color" property of black. I was shocked that someone would overwrite such an important bootstrap class like this, however, I learned that it's beneficial to be skeptical of the code that came before you. Later, I found there were many more classes that had been overwritten in this reckless manner and reported them to my instructor. Finally, after commenting out these inhibiting CSS classes I was able to style up a much more responsive page with bootstrap (As You Can See Here and On The Following Page).

Season Managers

[Create New](#) [Back to Dashboard](#)

Season #2 Manager

Seats Available
5

Currently Booked?
☐

Fall Production

Name
Jimmy and the Giant Peach
Time
10-07-2020 12:00 AM
Booked?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Winter Production

Name
Hamlet
Time
12-07-2020 12:00 AM
Booked?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Spring Production

Name
Harry Potter
Time
03-07-2020 12:00 AM
Booked?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

[Edit](#) | [Details](#) | [Delete](#)

Season #3 Manager

Season Managers
[Create New](#) [Back to Dashboard](#)

Season #2 Manager

Seats Available
5

Currently Booked?
☐

Fall Production

Name
Jimmy and the Giant Peach

Time
10-07-2020 12:00 AM

Booked?
☒

Winter Production

Name
Hamlet

Time
12-07-2020 12:00 AM

Booked?
☒

Spring Production

Name
Harry Potter

Time
03-07-2020 12:00 AM

Booked?
☒

[Edit](#) | [Details](#) | [Delete](#)

You can see how the cards stack on a skinnier screen like in mobile view (On the Left). It did take me a considerable amount of time to arrive with this polished page. I had struggled with the overwritten bootstrap classes and many CSS mockups for days before I smartened up. I wrote more than a dozen CSS classes only to find out that there were Bootstrap Classes for almost all of them accomplishing the same task. Overall, during this project I learned about the Bootstrap Grid System and styling classes. As well as the more general lesson of consulting the documentation before trying to prescribe the task an ignorant solution.

I also styled four other pages, here's the Create Form I made for adding seasons to the Index Page (Below).

Create Season Manager

Season Manager Person
subscriberTest

Number of Seats Available

Fall Production

Fall Production Name

Fall Production Time
mm/dd/yyyy --:-- --

Winter Production

Winter Production Name

Winter Production Time
mm/dd/yyyy --:-- --

Spring Production

Spring Production Name

Spring Production Time
mm/dd/yyyy --:-- --

[Create New](#)

[Back to List](#)

SCRUM

Monday to Friday throughout the two week sprint I participated in a daily standup meeting as a part of the SCRUM Process. Every morning we met for about 10 minutes and discussed what we completed the day before along with the challenges we're currently facing. Additionally, on Fridays we did a Code Retrospective reflecting on what practices proved effective along with what could be improved. Since me and the other developers were working on vastly different parts of the application these meetings proved unnecessary for the development of the App in regards to each other. However, this was a valuable time to talk to the instructor face to face and clarify any problems we were having and possibly get feedback on how to proceed. Generally throughout the project I practiced a very agile mindset in my communications with the instructor. Letting him know my ideas and getting his ideas through many steps along the way. This was important because he was the one who was going to eventually accept my pull request, it needed to be done in a manner he was happy with. Overall, I gained some solid experience throughout this Live Project sprint and am content with the challenges I took and the contributions I made.