

Reflection B

Learning Highlights

Module 1 to 3 encompass many conceptual ideas about designing an application system and I have learned many useful skills and tools that could help me build a comprehensive and practical application in the future. Furthermore, it helps me have a clear understanding of the structure of an application, which can help me gain different perspectives about how to be a better developer in software industries. For instance, module 2 is an impress topic, it makes me clarify different system architecture designs, knowing its pros and cons. It's funny as now I have a better understanding about how a large-scale enterprise operates run their applications and provide high-quality services or products at the same time. For example, Uber is a multinational enterprise which could have thousands or millions of requests around the world, if the architecture of their system was not well-designed, it could cause their application frequently collapse and they may have huge loss financially. In Activity 2.2, it teaches me how to design a comprehensive and well-functioning application. I would say to build an application is way more complicated than the content in this topic. It involves many aspects such as skillsets, capital, market...etc., but at least this topic helps me have basic concepts about how to design an application.

Implementation

In module 3, I have learned many concepts about how to design a website which provides users good experience when they are browsing. I have made my portfolio website about 2 years ago and even have my own domain, but it is kind of rough as it was built at the time I just learned JavaScript and React. After learning module 3, I have decided to use the knowledge I acquire in this topic to rebuild my portfolio website. Here are some designs and functionalities I would modify/add on my website:

1. Redesign my website for accessibility (Reference Activity 3.1 Supporting Content D)
2. Apply Intuitive design
3. Add Keyboard navigation
4. Design a better responsive version of my website. (It's responsive now but not quiet well-designed)
5. Apply lazy-loading techniques to make the load time faster

When I complete the upgrade, I will put the URL of my website in the document we will have to submit in module 9.

Challenges

Though this course is really funny and practical, but I still encounter some challenges. For example, there are about 4 to 6 supporting contents in each activity, it's really hard to read all of them during the workshop class, especially you have to discuss with your mates about the topic later. After week 1, I decided to have a glance in Monday's night (my workshop is on Tuesday) so that I could have a better understanding about what the topic is talking about and be able to read through most of the content during the class. Another challenge I have is that some content is still too hard to fully understand for me, especially in Module 2, there are many terminologies and deep concepts that I think it's too tough for a beginner in application design. Though there are supporting content below and I even searched for other learning content on the Internet, but I still can't understand what it is about. But like the concept mentioned in module 3, that is "continuous improvement", it's not necessary to understand all of content at a time as long as you keep learning and being proactive, then one day you will figure out all of these complicated stuffs.

Improvement

Reflecting on challenges I have faced, particularly in module 2, I have a better understanding and a clear overview of an application, and know how to design an application in a designer perspective. System design is a deep and complex area, now I just understand a little bit of it.

Connection and Future

In the future, I believe that generative AI will be replacing most of the jobs in IT industries, programmers will no longer need to write code by themselves, but design an application or a system will still be a job that requires human beings to complete. Thus, I think it's worth to acquire some expertise in this course for the upcoming changing in the future.