TERM 1 INTERN REPORT

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Contents

Video link:

https://youtu.be/BEKue61berI

0. Abstract

As my website development final year project, I come up with an idea for a website called the 'WardrobeSwap'. 'WardrobeSwap' is a project that is present to amplify the sustainable fashion practises in an increasing eco-cautious world. This project not only provides users with the opportunity to explore different cultures through a glimpse into each other 's fashion choices, but also promotes environmental sustainability as "Textile waste ending up in landfills has become a huge concern globally." [1] where the most common material used in clothing, which is "polyester (a synthetic) is accounted for 51% (54 million tonnes) in 2018" [2] that end up in landfills. My aim is to divert all clothing away from their potential negative impact, especially in landfills and in bodies of water, harming aquatic creatures. The primary concept behind 'WardrobeSwap' is the creation of an online marketplace that is purely dedicated to exchange used clothing. Where users are buying and selling clothing they no longer need, reducing clothing ending up in landfills [1]. My commitment lies on developing a website that is not only fully functional, but also prioritise security and the safety of buying and selling clothing. Users will have the capability to upload pictures of clothing items for sale through the "post" function in the website, and users who are interested would then click on "buy", which would redirect them to a checkout page, all done within the website. Furthermore, my project will have advanced features such as push notification [3] which will be an integral part of the application serving to "enhance user engagement and provide real-time updates" [3] on the progress of their product. The main system architecture would include the development of the web browser with an interface and integrated with a relational database. I have decided to utilise React.js as the frontend framework, this is because "React is renowned for its component-based approach enabling reusable UI development". [4] this will allows me to easily create a user-friendly frontend for 'WardrobeSwap', which aligns perfectly with our goal of delivering a sustainable marketplace for old clothing. When it came to deciding what to utilise for backend, I was lost between the two choices, Python and Node.js. Although python is a known programming language for its simplicity and readability, allowing easier execution, Node.js seems like an ideal choice over Python since the performance sets apart demonstrated by the comparison tests where Node.js consistently outperforms Python. Node.js efficiently handles large number of simultaneous connections" [5], and It also consistently handles a higher number of requests with lower latency compared to Python making it a an optimal choice for building real Time application. [6] allowing me to create the backend with little to no trouble since it works more efficiently. During the early delivery stage of my project, I will be creating use cases, which play a very important role, defining the function requirements and the user interaction that may occur. "Use cases are powerful tools to capture function requirements for software systems", [7] which specifies and simulates the users interaction with my project. By establishing use cases, it lets me decipher what could go wrong during the development and the steps I can take the improve. I will be using UML diagrams to show my use cases since they are "a visual language to define and document a system" [8] which will be a clear visual way to see how users would possibly use the website, allowing me to clearly find any faults without confusion. Furthermore, as the project progresses, I will proceed on presenting a functional prototype, which will feature a basic user interface and also demonstrate interactions with the database. Especially since "the user interface and the design of the functionality are Tightly integrated" [9], therefore showing a functional prototype would simulate the real website before it has been completed, giving the users a basic idea of what to expect from the website. With

‘WardrobeSwap’, I am aiming to create a website that promotes sustainable fashion practises [2] and providing a platform where users can buy and sell used clothing. It focuses on the reuse of clothing through the use of online retail, where customers can buy and sell their clothing so that less clothing can end up in landfills, contaminating the natural habitats. Wardrobeswap not only enhances promotes the exchange of clothing, but it also encourages the mass to distribute a piece of their culture around the globe, simultaneously reducing the clothing wastage in the process. The user-friendly nature of the website allows a smoother operation of the website, as it makes the user interaction stress free. Its minimalist approach pleases the eyes with eye catching colours scheme, making navigation of the pages done in a simplistic manner. This project is going to take a step towards a more sustainable and connected world of fashion, diverting clothing away from landfills, preventing any environmental hazards while embracing different fashion choices.

1. Introduction

In this evolving landscape of online marketing, the merging of technology and implementing a sustainable practice has been rising in innovation, which reaches beyond the e-commerce. Wardrobe swap exactly merges the best of the two worlds with the incorporation of the fashion industry with a fair sustainable practice, introducing the use of online marketplace, complimenting well with the tackling of environmental challenges caused the fashion industry.

1.1 Overview

Individuals are able to effectively list clothing for sale through the use of the “form” in the sell page. Allowing the buyers to navigate through the pages and select the listing of their choice. The use of a component-based approach framework, specifically react for frontend allowed the creation of an interactive and engaging UI. In terms of the backend selection between python and node.js, opting for python allowed a greater ease of functionality and efficiently handling multiple ports simultaneously, especially when paired with flask backend. Through the use of the agile methodology, it successfully allowed me to carry out the iterative stage of development, allowing me to focus on specific parts. The continuous development allowed a faster pace at carrying out the main functionalities of the website, allowing a swifter development.

1.2 Background

In the emerging of new fashion and clothing as the time passes, more and more clothing are being produced. This has a significant effect on the consumers behaviour. Due to the distribution of social media, consumers are more aware of the environmental consequences caused by the mass production of clothing. It is steering consumers away from “use and discard” mentality and pulling them towards the adoption of reusing clothing and turning pre-owned fashion. This new trend encourages the acknowledgment of the environmental crisis due to the mass production of clothing, specifically the clothing made by non-biodegradable materials such as synthetics. According to:

1.3 Aims and goals

My main goals to achieve by the end of the year is to develop a fully functioning and a visual appealing website, creating a user-friendly website that enhances the interaction between the sellers and the buyers. Also making the website appealing enough so that people are encouraged to use this website to resell their clothing instead of throwing it away in landfills. In order to do so, I have set a few objectives I would like to meet by the end. Some of the key objectives are as follows:

Adding a user login, For example, when the sellers click on the “sell now” button it is presented with a login page so that the users can sign in using either their e-mail or login through google. Similarly

when the customers wants to buy a product inside the website, as soon as they click on the “buy” button on their selected item, they should be presented with the same page user login page which prompts the users to login in before proceeding. Implementing this page would ensure that tracking their orders can be done easily.

Enhancing the visuals and functionality of the website: At the moment, the look and the aesthetic of the website is fairly simple. Especially in the form, as the form only has 2 ways of in putting the data, therefore having multiple ways of inputting data would enhance the visual and the functionality of the website. Furthermore, having a larger text box for description area, and also creating a function where users are able to upload pictures onto the database.

Allowing users to click on the posts: At the moment, when the users submit their information, it only displays it on the home screen and their categorised places. However, there are no functionalities where the users can interact with the posts yet. Ensuring that users are able to interact with their posts, this may be by clicking on the post, adding the item to the basket, being able to read more about the description, zooming into the pictures would enhance the user engagement with the website.

Having a notification feature: Adding in a notification feature would ensure that the sellers can be notified whenever a user buys a product, similarly the user can be notified whenever their desired product in their basket is out of stock. Doing so ensures that both the user and the sellers are up to date with the progress of their items.

Implementing a comment feature: Adding a comment feature, so that the users can ask any questions about the product, or even write a review under listing. Furthermore, implementing a feature where the end user can tag other users who have created an account on the website, so that they are redirected to this item.

1.4 Literature Survey

For my literature survey, I decided to look into the UI of various different websites. Since my website is primarily an online marketplace website, I decided to research and look into a few websites, which are “Vinted” (Vinted.co.uk) and “Ebay” (Ebay.co.uk). Firstly, I analysed eBay’s website. When visiting eBay’s homepage, the visual seemed quite cluttered, too many texts, information and pictures seemed quite overwhelming at first sight. Furthermore, the navigation bar seemed small and invisible, especially the “hello, sign in”, as it was a hyperlink on a simple aria text. Therefore, based on this, I made my website quite simplistic, where the navigation bar are in their own buttons, and also the size of the navigation bar is quite large in size so that its easily viewable and clickable. Ebay however, has placed it’s search bar under the navigation bar, making searching a bigger priority for the users than it is to browse. Doing so it allows users to enter ebay with a specific product in mind instead of browsing. I decided to add this into my website, where I made sure to make the search component larger than the navigation bar and right under the navigation bar, especially since my website promotes the selling of second hand clothing, the prices of the items would be significantly cheaper than first hand items, as a result having the search result clearly visible would ensure that the users can search for their desired items and receive a cheaper version of it.

I then proceeded to look into the visual of Vinted. As soon as you go onto the website you are greeted with the punchline “Ready to declutter”, and then there is a big button which redirects you to the listing form. The button is placed in front of a large background of a woman holding a shirt. I found this to be especially impressive as it looked well put together visually, the background specifically was relevant to the colour theme of the entire website and also it was fit the theme of

the site aswell – the theme being the selling of clothing. I was inspired by this idea, so I decided to use this for my webpage, where, the home page of my website also has a background, that has a similar colour scheme to the overall website, with a button saying “Sell now”. Vintage quite cleverly added the “sell now” button right after “ready to declutter” as soon as you enter the home page, which would encourage the viewer to go over old clothing they no longer need and consider selling it on Vinted.

2 Background theory

2.1 State of Art

For my website I have used react as the front end part of the development. React is a popular framework amongst web developed. The state of art of react has many aspects, most of these aspects I found to be very useful for my project. React to the component based structure therefore, each of the components are responsible for each specific part of the user interface, this makes react extremely reusable, furthermore doing so also has the ability to maintain well. For styling, I have used CSS variables, specifically media queries. Media queries were effectively used to create a responsive user interface for different screen sizes, this ensures that the website is successful to a variety screen sizes further demonstrating the commitment in providing an optimal user experience. Another method that I've used to enhance the state of art of my website is the use of external font imports. I have imported Google fonts to enhance the visual appeal of my website. I have used react router for the client side of the routing by importing routes from react router Dom, default path of “/”, this redirects the user back to home. Doing this function allows the users to have a multi page experience within a single page, which evidently improves navigation. I have also imported react libraries such as FaBar and React/icons to further increase the static of my website.

2.2 Theoretical Foundations

It is incredibly important for the success of our online marketplace platform to have a successful UI and UX design. This is because most users would connect to a website through the UI and UX a study show that if a user is not satisfied with the UI design of a website, they have a higher chance of clicking away from the website [10]. I have decided to implement a lighter colour scheme. This is because light is mostly associated by positivity as a result people would be more inclined to utilise my website. I also ensured that my website is very minimalistic, this is because having too much information at the same time may overwhelm the users. I made sure that there's not many options and navigation bar as it doesn't overload the users with too much information furthermore, I decided to have the search function in a contrasting colour to the rest of the web page. This ensures that the first thing that the users notice upon entering the website is the search function. As a result, it allowing the users to search for the items that they require.

2.3 Proof of Concept Programs

I have included many features and components into my website. One of the main components that the users are greeted with as soon as enter the website, is a homepage. The homepage consists of a navigation bar, a search bar, a background that has a darker overlay on top, aswell as a button that states “sell now”. As the user scrolls down on the homepage, the user is then presented with the items that has been listed by the sellers. I have implemented this by creating components called NavBar, which is the component for the navigation bar. The main functionality of this class is to ensure that navigation bar responsive and interactive. The “showNavBar” function is responsible for the toggling responsiveness. I have also implemented a component called background, which plays a selected video on loop and displays it onto the page. I ensured that the “Sell now” button is rendered on top of the background, resulting in a more cleaner user interface. Lastly, I have

implemented a search bar component which displays the search bar, on the web page. I made sure that navigation bar and the search bar are displayed in every other pages, making sure that there is consistency within the pages.

Once the user clicks on the “sell now” button, the user is then redirected to the sell page, where the user is presented with a form. This for has many inputs, such as Title, description, category, and price. The user is then presented with a “Submit” button. Once the user fills in all the data, and clicks on “submit” the user is presented with a “Thank you” page, where they see a button, redirecting them to go back in the home page. Once the user returns to the home page, they are able to see their listings on the “Browse Now” section. This was possible through the use of “handleSubmit”, which is called by “onSubmit” once the user submits the data. HandleSubmit then creates a “formData” object from the form and then sends a Post request to the server. It sets “submission” to “true” once the data has been successfully sent to the server. After doing so, it displays a “Thank you” message.

After the form submits the data, it gets sent to the server and the server retrieves the data using the GET requestion, it creates a directory of the listing that with all the data from the from. It then iterated over the listing and returns a JSON object. The listing is then added to the database using db.session.add(new_listing) and then commits the changes.

SQLalchemy was used to create the database and to query all the listing from the database using listing.query.all(). The data is formatted into a JSON file so that it iterates through each of the listings and extracts information such as ID, title, description, category, price, and data created.

The server then sends the JSON response back to the client, and then displays the listing once the data is fetched using the “useState” and “useEffect” hook. It then updates the “initialData” with the fetched listing. It then stores all that data inside a card. And the card is used to display the listing onto the home page.

The cards get filtered, based on their category by only fetching the card that matches the category, and furthermore, it displays the card into their own category. For example, it will only fetch the card with the “Women” category, and then display the card in the “Women’s” page.

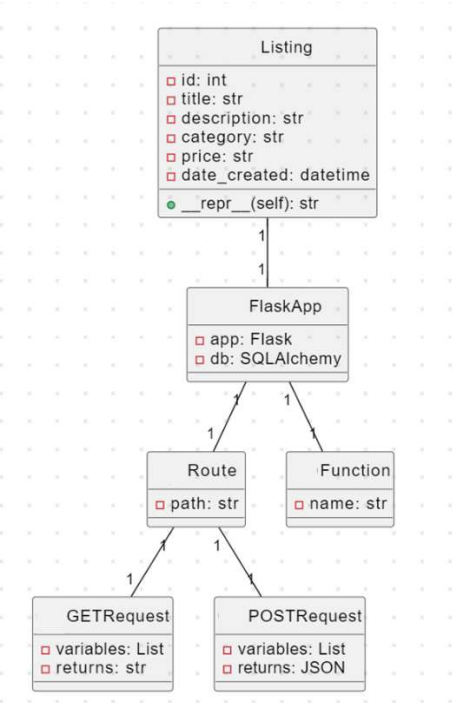
3 Software Engineering

3.1 Methodology

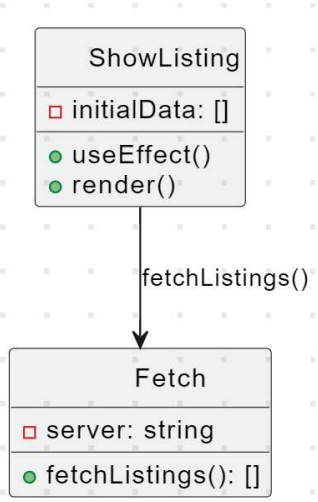
The methodology that I have used in order to create this website is Agile. Agile was very useful especially during the development is due to the flexible nature of the methodology. I was able to make numerous changes in requirement and the design. Especially since during the production, following the agile methodology allowed me to slightly bend the strict timeline I have created. Using this methodology, I was able to continuously improve my project. This was especially whenever my project came to a halt, I was able to go back and work on it again in an iterative way allowing me to successfully complete my website, due to the fact that I did not have a strict timeline. This was mostly possible because of the nature of Agile.

3.2 UML

This is the UML diagram for server.py



This is the UML diagram for ShowListing.jsx

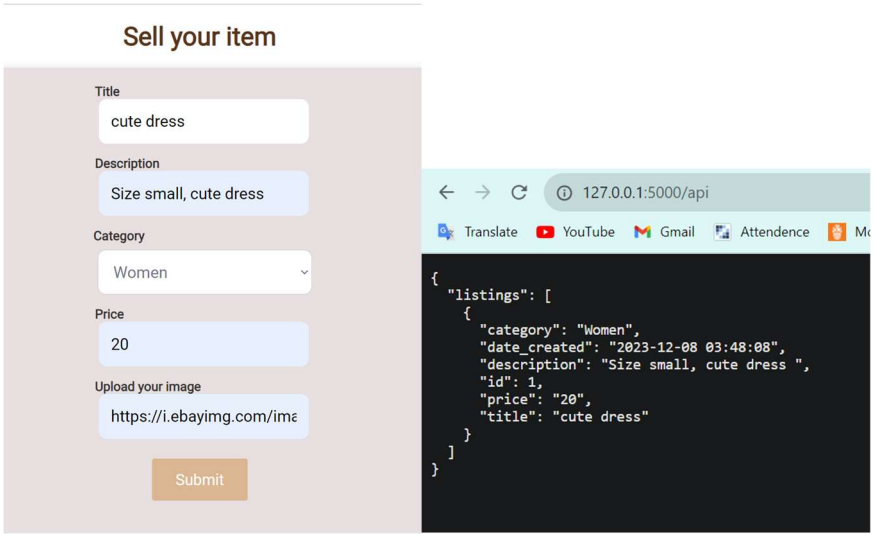


3.3 Testing

Test number	Test	Expected results	Actual result	Has it passed?
1	To see if the form posts the data to the database	The form successfully inputs data into the server	See picture set 1:	Successfully passed
2	See if the form displays the data on the home page	The form successfully displays the data	See picture set 2:	Successfully passed

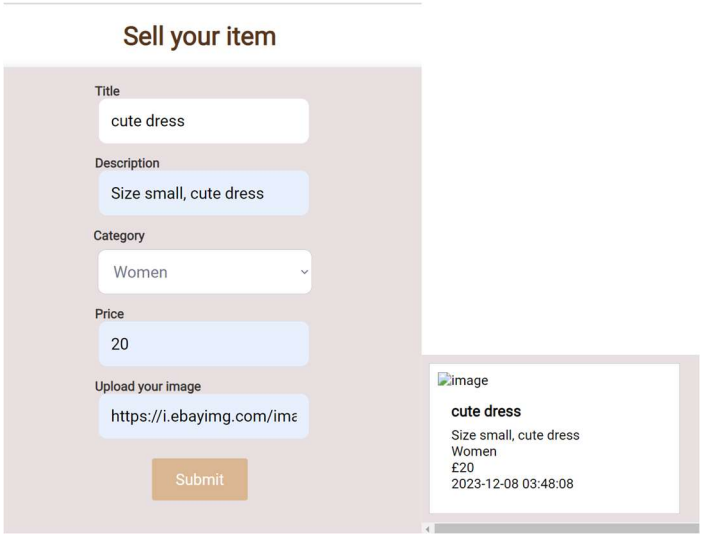
		on the home page		
3	See if the form successfully filters the listing based on category	The form filters based on the category.	See picture set 3:	Successfully passed

Picture set 1:



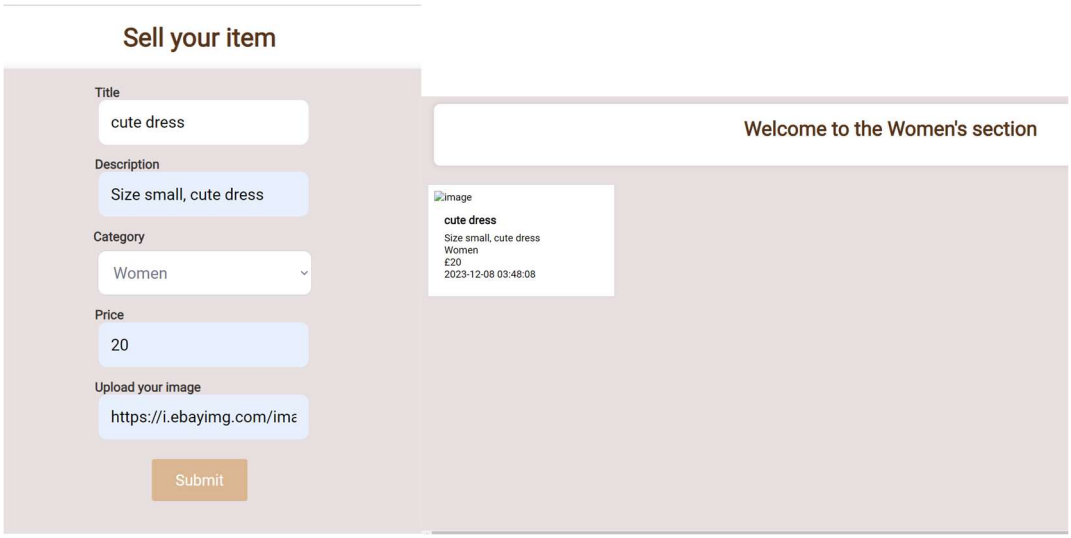
In here, I have first inputted the data into the form, as shown above in the first figure, and then after pressing submit, it displayed the content into the database, therefore the test was passed.

Picture set 2:



In here, I have first inputted the data into the form, as shown above in the first figure, and then after pressing submit, it displayed the content into the home page, therefore the test was passed.

Picture set 3



In here, I have first inputted the data into the form, as shown above in the first figure, and then after pressing submit, it displayed the content into its own category (women's page), therefore the test was passed.

3.4 Documentation

I have shown software development aspects during the creation of my website, by creating a UML diagrams. In the UML diagram I have successfully showed my website receiving information from the form and posting it into the database. My UML diagram also shows the way the website fetches the data from the database and displays it on the card.

In terms of testing, although the testing that I have submitted is quite simplistic, it successfully shows all the working components of the website, I've included a grid of tests, followed by the evidence of the test passing. For my final interim report, I'm going to be adding TDD testing instead.

4 Reflection:

Although I managed to achieve many milestones during the production of my website, however I did end up missing a few things from my original plan as I was slightly behind in terms of the schedule of my timescale.

4.1 Project Planning:

In original plan, during week 1 and 2 I had to complete research on react and flask. I also need to collect the materials that seemed useful for the creation of the website, followed by making a rough design of how the website should look like. By week 2 and 3 I had planned to create all the UML diagrams, user stories and a basic design of what my web pages should need to look like once it is completed. By week 4, I had to create the basic layout of the frontend, ensuring that is aesthetically pleasing. I had to make sure that the borders, windows and the buttons are working accordingly. I had also planned to have a working backend in that time. In week 5 and 6, I was supposed to have the main key components of the website. Furthermore, creating a database that stores all the information, including the storing of imagine, through the uploading images. I also had to ensure that the images displayed on the screen. I had to ensure that the text messages would display on the

screen. By week 7 and 8, I had to finish the frontend completely and have all the working functionalities. I also had to come up with a working prototype.

During term 2, I had planned to have a user account which allows you to log in and also store a the username and password into the database by week 1 and 2. I had also planned to add a basket system to the website which allows multiple items to be stored into the basket at a time. I had planned to implement a payment method by week 3 and 4. Followed by week 5 and 6, where I had planned to have a feature that filters the website so that the website is layout is different for the users and sellers based on the user account. Furthermore, I also planned on implementing ways to change/edit/delete the seller's listing and also have a messaging system where at the seller can directly communicate with the buyers. By week 7, I had to ensure that there was push notification feature, where the sellers get notified whenever someone purchases their product.

4.2 Adjustments:

The timeline in term 1 had many flaws, it had many imbalances within the weeks, for example, in week 5 and 6, I had set a goal to implement 4 very heavy components, which would likely take more than 2 weeks; and in other weeks, I had little to no work, such as in week 9, I had to start the documentation and clean up the code. My timeline also had many issues with the ordering of the tasks. It had asked me to implementing the storying of images, before the actual creation of the database.

Therefore, I have revised the project timeline for term 1 and term 2:

Term 1:

Week 1 & 2:

- Research React.js and Node.js
- Collect materials that would be useful for the implementation of the websites.
- Start making a rough design on how the website is going to look like. Eg. The placement of the buttons, the window, the layout
- Create user stories and UML diagrams of the webpages.

Week 3 & 4:

- Setup the frontend and the backend
- Start making the basic layout of the frontend to make it aesthetically pleasing. Eg. Boarders, windows, boxes,

Week 5 & 6:

- Implement a database
- Create a navigation bar, search bar, the overall layout of the site
- Make it so that the users can navigate between the pages

Week 7 & 8:

- Create a form for the sell page
- Make it so that the data gets sent to the server
- Allow the server to receive the data and sent it into the database

Week 9:

- Display the data on the screen
- Implement a category filter option

Week 10 & 11:

- Work on the documentation
- Prepare for the presentation.

Term 2:

Week 1 & 2:

- Allow searching so that the listing displays when searching for the item
- Allow interaction with the post,
- Allowing sellers to be able to change/edit/delete their listing

Week 3 & 4:

- Add a comment option where users can comment under post
- Add a basket system to the website which allows multiple items to be stored.
- Implement payment method.

Week 5 & 6:

- Create User account which allows you to sign up and log in. It should store the password in the database.

Week 7:

- Add push notification where the sellers get notified when someone purchased their product and buyers get notified when their product is out for delivery.
- Start the report.

Week 8 & 9:

- Carry out tests to identify and resolve any bugs or performance issues
- Fix any leftover features and polishing up the website.
- Continue recording findings in the report

Week 10 & 11:

- Finishing up the report covering all the aspects of the development process
- Create a detailed user manual guild on how to use and navigate through the website

Conclusion

In general, I was slightly behind, due to many reasons, one massive reason was due to multiple hardware failures and software issues. Occasionally my GitLab would stop working, or when switching to a new device, it would break and would not let me clone the code into the new device. In order to tackle the issue, I had asked for help from the help desk and also did a lot of research to ensure that I can get my code back. Although I had gone off the project timeline, I still managed to make a significant amount of progress, and managed to implement the main components of the final project.

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Appendix (diary)

11/10/23 - 12/10/23

1)tried to connect to gitlab on vscode but couldnt due to computer issues

2)finally managed to by creating an personal access token and using that as a password instead of my own password.

3)used vscode clone to clone this into my repository

14/10/23

1)researched and found out that using flask for backend is the best choice

2)set up server.py and created a server where it gives me a url and a link

3)created html file and connected to the server

4)connected to the database

15/10/23

1)looked at the file and noticed how disorganised it is and rearranged it to make it look more presentable and less confusing

2)imported react js frontend and editing the files accordingly and keeping the ones i need

3)the server.py was no longer working so i created a virtual machine by using backend\Scripts\activate and installed flask within the virtual machine

16/10/23

1)errors as it does not run the frontend server.

2)this was because my functions in was wrong. when i got rid of it, it worked

18/10/23

1) rearranged the components in the front and backend - unable to commit due to existing errors

20/10/23

1) trying to fix the errors caused by installing flask and react - still cannot commit due to existing errors

26/10/23

1)the issues fixed regarding the installation of flask and react, however the contents on server.py do not display on the webpage

2)managed to display the contents by hanging the the name of the @app.route to @app.route('/home'). and changing the name of the url to /home - still cannot commit due to existing errors

28/10/23

1)fixing issue where the contents arent being fetched from backend

2)got rid of the code that is supposed to fetch backend code and display it on frontend preparing it to commit

02/11/23

1)could not do much due to other assignments however, researched about how to make the website look presentable

2)looked into the colour scheme and the type of website

3)settled for pastel colours

4)decided on how to make the navigation bar and collected all the materials for after the due of assignments

05/11/23

1)started implementing the navigation bar

2)created a new file called Navbar

3)error faced, where it mentions "the file is not found in components" while the file is clearly in the componenets

06/11/23

1)due to some personal issues, i had to switch devices and finding issues setting up gitlab on new device, therefore, i am also unable to commit (back up on USB)

08/11/23

1)unable to work on the project due to other coursework

2)fixed the bug of "file not found", by adding "export function Navbar()"

9/11/23

1)fixed the issue with gitlab not being able to connect to my IDE

10/11/23

1)started working on implementing search bar

2)working on allowing users to search items from the database

3)resumed working on navbar, which was put on halt due to errors

4)fixed bugs regarding gitignore and node modules, and committed changes

11/11/23

1)managed to implement navbar, however a new bug appreared where the page links do not apprear when we click on "more" option

2)trying to implement the database for the search function,

13/11/23

1)fully implemented the navbar and other minor issues with Navbar, and committed the official Navbar

2)implemented searchbar feature without connecting to the database

3)when looking into commits, i realised that it says that the commits were committed by 2 people, Maliha Ahmed (anonymous), and Maliha Ahmed ZKAC334 (Uni account). I logged into VSC using microsoft

4)test submitting book to see if it fixes the submission of Maliha Ahmed (anonymous).

5)added a seach button

6)added a video background that is slightly dimmed, that allows users to sell their clothing

14/11/23

1)spend the whole day trying to implement the website so that when i click on buttons it would redirect me to a different file

2)keep getting error messages saying "export 'AbortedDeferredError' (reexported as 'AbortedDeferredError') was not found in 'react-router'"

15/11/23

1)had to recreate the whole workplace since the .json files were mixed up. i had 2 .json files and a few things uninstalled. i also had 2 react-dom and react-router-dom installed, which clashed with my files overall.

2)added a logo

3)committed new workplace

27/11/23

1) The navigation wasnt working. it kept showing You cannot render a <Router> inside another <Router>. You should never have more than one in your app.

2) removed BrowserRouter, and the navigation works

3)made it so that when the logo is pressed its redirected to the home page

28/11/23

1)connected to the frontend to the backend, so that the port to fetching and posting data is open

2)implemented the GET and POST method

29/11/23

1) Attempting to create database using db.create_all(), however there are some issues regarding python on recognising the error

30/11/23

1)created a form in the sell option

2)refined all the pages so that it looks more organised

2/12/23

1) Successfully created the database

3/12/23

1) successfully posted the data from the form into the server,

6/12/23 - 7/12/23

1)managed to implement a filter the listing by category

2)committed everything