

Matthew Barthelmes

CS320 Individual Project Report

Games Database

When I was thinking of what to do for my individual project, I had no idea where to start. All I know was that I was most likely going to use C# or VB with .NET, as that's what my dad uses Microsoft Visual Studio for the work he does. I eventually came to the idea of a game storage database. With this, I set out to learn more about the visual design of an application as well as learning the basics of using a database. I initially wanted to use C#, but after some thought, I decided that since I know a bit of C#, I'd rather switch to VB to start fresh and have knowledge of another language.

Through this process, I learned a few things. First off, initially learning a new language and researching how specific things work is extremely frustrating at times. Continually typing in what feels like the same line of code over and over again and watching it not work, only to notice one thing was off halfway through the code is not very fun. At the end, though, I successfully learned the basics of SQL and how to design a page, which is useful as C# uses a very similar if not the same interface for the design portion of applications.

As I stated before, the most frustrating aspect of the project was learning how to use VB. With C#, the way you type code is very similar to Java, but VB feels like it's completely different from those two languages that it got a bit overwhelming learning all of the new ways to type simple lines of code. The most satisfying aspect of the project was putting together the actual application together. It honestly felt like a design tool on lines with Microsoft PowerPoint

with how you can place objects around. It was more of a calming opportunity to take a break from typing and just place objects around and testing what I could with them.

I originally planned on learning how to incorporate Microsoft Access into my code, but funny enough, it happened to be based on SQL. Because of this, I have a really good knowledge of how SQL actually works that I can put into the final stretch of the group project for this class. Beyond that, databases are important for storing any types of data for any company, so now I can use them easily with whatever I decide to do after college or in internships.

I usually don't like the idea of grading myself as I usually tend to undershoot myself. Like many others, I don't ever want to fail myself, but I never really like giving myself a top grade as I feel as if I'm putting myself above others and their abilities. I believe that I deserve around a 90. Learning a new language is no easy task, however I felt as if I didn't take my code as far as it possibly could've been since the group project felt more important in terms of grades and not letting my team down. Despite that, I feel as if I accomplished a lot and have a very good project that I could put more time into outside of class.