

340 Semester Report

In the beginning of the semester I expected to learn about how MySQL worked and understand some of the coding behind the database in order to perform CRUD operations. Along with that I wanted to learn how to implement what we learned in class to our class project. This project would be able to start a database for ISAT students to learn about each other's year, concentration ect. This would demonstrate our knowledge of CRUD operations.

After a mid semester self reflection of where my learning was in the class, I decided to meet with Dr. Benton to set some goals for what I wanted to gain for the rest of the semester. We set some goals for what I should get out of the class. They were as follows:

- DB Analysis practice
- Basic PHP coding w/o a DB
- Very Basic HTML (w3schools.com)
- Basic Java Script
- Basic connection from PHP to MySQL
- Successfully present our CRUD (eye to eye) project
- Understand a complex group dynamics

My code can be seen here <https://gist.github.com/4273650>

As seen in the above examples I accomplished all of my goals for the semester. A place in which I did not expect to learn was a big lesson in-group dynamics. My group was a very diverse group of people who all work in different ways. As opposed to coming together and working on the code together we had a somewhat unorganized relationship. Everyone wanted to do the project in a different way. I found that we all didn't have the same ideologies on what we wanted to get out of the class and for that reason we did not accomplish everything that I had intended on doing. Looking back on the synergy in the group we had a independent way of working which in projects like this isn't the best way complete the project.

I was just offered an internship for Deloitte in their Business Technology Analysis field. This internship will be focused on working in teams to implement new systems for federal clients. From this class I can take a few things and apply them to the real world. First off is my better grasp on how a database works; especially if we are using MySQL. Secondly, I learned that the most important part of a database design is the planning before actually executing the task. As we saw in the class that you can't just jump into the programming without first understand exactly what you need and don't need in the design. Lastly, I got to gain valuable experience working in a group that had different ideologies. As I saw there were leadership issues that didn't get resolved till it was the end of the semester. In the path that I am taking right now, I will be working in groups for the rest of my life. Understanding that

there is a problem and confronting the problem before its too late is something that I will take from this class. It's not facing the problem early in the process that will get a group unorganized and confrontational later.

I believe that I deserve an **A** in this class. My reason being is that I accomplished all of my goals that I had set for myself as well as successfully presented our working project to the class. As far as teamwork goes we didn't work the best together but at the end of the semester we managed to pull it together and complete what we started.

Exit Essay

I did not expect this course to be as challenging as it was. To be honest, I was expecting to be a fully capable software developer by the end of ISAT 340. I came into ISAT 340 thinking that I would pick up software development easily and create projects without much effort. I couldn't have been more wrong. In ISAT 340, I quickly learned that I had to put in the time and effort if I wished to accomplish anything. I learned that simple tasks were far more challenging than they appeared. I learned just how technical software development was and how much knowledge was required to create working databases.

There were several goals I created for myself throughout the semester. Some of the main goals I set included the following

- **Learn basic Structured Query Language (SQL)**
- **Learn basic CRUD operations (Create, Retrieve, Update, and Delete)**
- **Understand Database Analysis**
- **Understand Database Design**
- **Database Integration**
- **Learn basic Java, HTML, PHP**
- **Work efficiently in a team**

Throughout the semester, my team and I worked very hard to achieve our goals. Our ultimate goal for the semester was to create a web-based application that allows users to compare the costs of medical procedures and see how the costs vary from state to state. I would say I did a decent job at achieving my goals. I believe I understand basic SQL as well as other coding languages like HTML and PHP. I also feel as though I have a solid understanding on Database Analysis and Database Design. I have examples of this portrayed in my Word Press blog that go into more detail. I achieved the majority of my goals by spending time outside the classroom watching tutorials online. One website that helped me more than others was w3schools.com. I found this website to be very useful and understanding. Whenever my group or I got stuck on a particular problem, we would go to the hacking session to see if other people could help us out. One thing my team could have done better on is installing an Update and Delete feature on our application. I believe if we were given, or managed our time better, we could have finished these features.

I have never been good at seeing myself in the future. I often find myself nervous about what direction I am heading. From this class, I can see myself trying to further my knowledge in web-based design such as database development. This course taught me that this field of study is

Chris Yantz
ISAT 340 Exit Essay

constantly changing and new things are being added each week. For now, I am going to try and better my understanding in HTML, PHP, MyAdmin, SQL queries, and database management. I would also like to continue working on this database as a potential senior project. Next semester, I plan on focusing on which of my sectors interests me the most so I can choose a concentration by the end of Spring semester. I also want to start planning for my senior thesis so I can begin working on that. I am beginning to apply to internships for the upcoming summer so I can continue to gain more knowledge on this subject. Overall, this is a field of study I am largely interested in so I will continue to pursue it until otherwise noted.

Coming into this class I wasn't really sure what to expect with a title as vague as software development. The class sounded very interesting, I just had no idea where it would take me. I'll admit I was a little nervous in the beginning due to my lack of prior experience, but I also knew a lot of the class was centered around creativity and attention to detail, which are two things I take great pride in myself with. I knew I wanted to learn more of a different programming language and contribute to a worthwhile project. Another thing I was looking forward to was Dr. Benton's alternative teaching philosophies. These seemingly unconventional ways create a much more relaxed teaching environment than what we are used to and really push you to think outside of the box. Things like the meditation to start the day is something I have adopted into my morning routine to help me unwind and prepare for my day ahead. As the class progressed, my expectations for the class didn't change much. I learned the basics of php, html, My SQL, and javascript through in class examples and online tutorials. Dr. Benton was available if we had any questions and offered his insight on our group work. Sometimes in class the examples seemed slightly over my head, but I did my best to wrap my head around them. By sharing all of the coding done in class, this helped me to go back and look over some of the material a second time. The class ended up being a little more advanced than I had expected but I was still able to keep track and feel like I walked away with new set of skills.

My goals for this class were to gain a better understanding of programming and to produce a well thought out project with practical applications. Also, I hoped to improve some on my time management skills and to not stress as much as usual. Unfortunately, I did not do so well with my time management, and more often than not showed up to class late as a result. However, adding the meditation into my daily morning routine has helped me to not stress as much this semester. Initially, I was a little stressed when I came into this class with little to no programming experience apart from visual basic. Because of this lack of prior experience I felt sort of out of the loop from the beginning, with not even knowing any html. So, I made it one of my goals to learn the basics through several tutorials to help lead my group in our project. I grasped the basics of the coding and DJ proved to be our group's best coder, but instead I focused my strength on attention to detail and brainstorming ideas within the group. This was not the strong suit for the other members of the group, so it worked out well. The idea stage was basically all the farther our project got, unfortunately. After starting to code for an artist database for UPB, we changed projects late in the semester and ran out of time right as our new idea for a Jack Brown's beer list application took hold. It was a great idea that would allow customers to better keep track of their notcher lists on a personal level and help with the decision making process involved

in ordering. The end of the semester crept up on us and poor communication towards the end prevented us from accomplishing this goal, but hopefully future semesters can build off of it.

Sectoring in IKM, I hoped to gain some valuable basic programming skills that could be implemented in whichever career path I choose. Databases are essential to any line of work and will definitely have a place in my engineering and manufacturing concentration. I found this semester that programming is a lot of trial and error and the more experience I gain in this field the faster these problems will be resolved. In a future semester, I hope a student chooses to adopt my project and complete a working application. Given more time or an earlier start on this project I think our group could have produced a very cool application that would have been well received in the Jack Brown's community.

I feel I deserve a B+ or a B for this class. While my group did not complete our project and my attendance wasn't stellar, a lot of thought went into our project and this class. This class proved to be a real eye opener into the world of programming. Despite my many distractions outside of class, I feel that I came away with what I had originally wanted out of the class, to gain a better understanding of several different, more advanced, programming languages and what all goes into the process of programming a worthwhile application. This semester I realized I couldn't make a career out of programming, it just isn't for me, but it is most definitely something I want to implement into my career path, whatever it may be.

Scott McNally
ISAT 340
Dr. Benton

Exit Essay

Coming into the course, I tried not to have any expectations of what it would be like. It is my belief that expectations are the root of all disappointment in the world so I try not to have expectations as much as possible. I didn't have the best experience in 252 and that definitely discouraged me a lot when it comes to anything with coding. This class was a much more comfortable learning environment than my 252 experience.

In the beginning of the semester, I set several goals for myself, not just for this class but for my life in general. First off, I signed up for 19 credits this semester, which in my opinion is a very heavy workload. I did this, setting a goal to become a more productive and hardworking individual. I know some people take 20 credits like its nothing but I've struggled with productivity and attention issues my whole life. I never got very good grades in school until my parents decided to deal with these issues and took me to the doctor. I got prescribed Vyvanse my senior year of high school to help deal with the attention issues. My grades literally skyrocketed and I started getting straight A's. However this drug has soooo many negative aspects that I can't even begin to describe here. This brings me to my second main goal of this semester. Goal number two was that I wanted to stop taking that devilish pill every day. I'm an adult now, not just a high school student and I need to learn how to function and be extremely productive without assistance from a stupid pill.

Looking back I would say that I was very successful at accomplishing both goals one and two. I made it through my 19 credit semester and kept myself together. Even better, I only took that awful pill eight times throughout the entire semester. I'm actually very proud of myself for how well I did this semester. However, with taking 19 credits, I feel as though I neglected each class a little bit more than I would have if I had taken less credits.

In regards to 340 one goal I set was that I wanted to get more out of this class than I did 252. 252 was a major struggle for me and to be honest I didn't learn much at all. I think any coding course needs to start from the nuts and bolts basics, especially an intro course like 252. However I feel as though this wasn't the case and 252 took off like a rocket and left me behind very fast. Another goal I set for myself in this class was to be able to be competent when reading code and be able to interpret its meaning. This may not seem like a shoot for the stars goal but after my 252 struggle this seemed like a big goal to me.

I would say I definitely accomplished both of the goals I stated above for this class. I came to realize that programming and writing code are very important skill for one to have in today's modern society. It is also a skill not many people possess, so having some knowledge of these topics can make an individual very valuable. I accomplished my first goal because now I can actually look at code and understand what it means. I'm still not took keen on JavaScript but PHP and HTML both make a little more sense to me. Data bases were always something I took for granted but now I understand what it actually takes to create and implement a functional database. Writing code is a lot different than just reading it and I think I made some good ground in this field as well. When I write I need to take it very slow and have a copious amount of resources in front of me.

Moving forward, this class has provided me with experience that I know I will use in the future. As a scientific individual, having knowledge of topics like coding are absolutely crucial. In ten years from now, I see myself doing some sort of environmental water quality job and what I learned in this class undoubtedly applies here. Although I probably won't be constructing my own databases, I will still be able to understand what went into making and maintain the data base. Software development is truly the future and god bless the people who excel at it because they are so incredibly important to furthering and maintaining our modern society.

I would like the grade of B- to reported to registrar.

Anthony Pham

ISAT 340

Dr. Morgan Benton

Exit Essay

12.14.12

Exit Essay

I feel like learning is best achieved when someone is legitimately interested in what they are doing. I can honestly say that ISAT 340 resembled that notion. The way the course was structured allowed each student to find their interest. Thus, giving them the option to apply themselves and actually learn the material on their own. Which I think is really important because that right there is a good indication of how a person can be applicable to certain things and how they can learn a material. It's not necessarily what grade you get, it's how you approach the learning objectives in terms of self-involvement and the willingness to learn.

My expectations for this semester were reasonable for this course. I expected to work with MySQL databases and to connect to them from an outside application, such as web forms and to learn more about how a database should be structured and analyzed. I worked hard to meet these expectations and once the end of the semester came, I was satisfied with what I've accomplished in terms of these expectations. The expectations pretty much stayed the same throughout the semester. I guess another expectation can be attending class on a regular basis and the hacking sessions which I also met.

The goals that I set for myself were adequate to the learning objective and the difficulty of this course. My group and I were looking to make an application where a user will be able to compare the prices of certain medical procedures within different states. We were able to have a states, prices, and procedures list with all the variables (SID, PID, Price, Description, etc) with linking input forms that can input all of the variables into the MySQL database as well as the actual HTML list. You can check out my portfolio for proof of work (<http://anthonyphamisat340.wordpress.com/>). Unfortunately, we couldn't link the states page with the prices and procedures, where ideally when you click on a state you will get a list of the different procedures with their associated prices, but as of now we are only able to have one procedure instead of the procedures. For example, in our database, we have multiple procedures for one state and what the application is supposed to do is pull up a list of all those procedures for that particular state once you click on the hyperlink, but once you click the state abbreviation, only one of the procedures shows up instead of all of them.

Although it was really frustrating that we couldn't get our app to fully function like we intended it to; I can honestly say that I turned this negative situation into a positive one by wanting to continue to work on this app and get it running properly because it is something that I thoroughly enjoy (even though it can get really frustrating and annoying when it comes to coding and getting the right output). I like being able to back track my mistakes and trying to fix them because the feeling of getting it right is really enjoyable. I am looking to maybe finish this application for my senior project if I can't think of anything better to do because this is

something that can be very useful for people that are looking to get a medical procedure done and potentially save them hundreds and hundreds of dollars.

I believe that grades should match performance and the overall effort of wanting to learn as well as applying what you learn to real-world instances. That is why I believe I deserve an A for this course. I was willing to teach myself most of the code and did essential research regarding PHP, MySQL, and Medical Information for the app. I was only absent about three or four times throughout the semester and exceeded my expectations when it came to programming and understanding MySQL databases. I engaged in class activities and completed the assigned labs and HW. Another BIG reason for why I deserve an A is not only my effort to actually learn the material, but my application of what I learned in ISAT 340 to other projects. I had a project for CIS 320 where we needed to build an application that connected to a database server; I immediately took the role of performing the PHP code and MySQL Database design because of what ISAT 340 had taught me. This is one of the main reasons why I think I deserve an A because I used my knowledge of something (in this case databases and PHP) and applied it to something that wasn't required for the specific course (CIS 320, a choice to do an application or a case study).

1. What were your expectations for the semester (and how did they change over time)?

I was definitely expecting to dive back into web development. I hadn't done any programming of this type since the IKM sector classes two years ago and I had enjoyed it very much. However, through picking E&M as my concentration, I ended up putting it aside for the past year. I was expecting to get my chops back as well as go a lot deeper and learn more new things. Over the course of the semester my expectations didn't change a whole lot but I found I really have a passion for web development. I really enjoy the process, especially when it comes to making everything nice and tidy. It definitely plays into my mild OCD. I also love interface design, and with the CSS and JS portions of the class I was able to further my knowledge in that.

2. What goals did you set for yourself?

Some goals were similar to my expectations. I wanted pick up where I left off in web development and take it several steps further so I would have a real working knowledge and feel good about putting it on my resume. I wanted to have real websites finished that I could put in my portfolio. They should be reasonable complicated, containing multiple pages and utilizing CSS and JS at the very least.

3. Did you achieve them? How well? What evidence do you have of that?

I definitely achieved my goals and especially the last couple weeks I've gone even further than the initial scope of my expectations. Throughout the

year, I was in a group that redesigned the page for JMU's CampusNet team. It was a multipage site with heavy styling and some unique challenges. The hardest part was implementing a dynamic announcements page, but with JMU's restriction of not allowing any server side scripting like PHP. We ended up using a combination of JS and storing the information on Amazons cloud storage platform.

The last couple of weeks, in addition to completing work on the CampusNet site, I've been working on my own teaching myself Ruby on Rails. My friend from high school initially got me excited about it now I hardly do anything else in my free time. Ruby on Rails is tremendously popular alternative to PHP or ASP, which uses the Ruby language to do server scripting for dynamic pages. Rails is an integrated solution that emphasizes the Model-View-Controller schema as well as the RESTful architecture and the Don't Repeat Yourself principle.

4. What does this mean moving forward?

I'm definitely going to continue learning Rails. I've gotten mildly hooked on it, and I really enjoy coding in it. I have a couple books I'm borrowing from my friend and I'm going to continue working through them and building apps. My goal is to get comfortable enough with the language to confidently put it on my resume.

5. What grade to report to the registrar?

A

Exit Essay

Coming into 340 I was pretty excited for the class compared to my other classes. My general interest in programming, as well as having you as a teacher and enjoying your style of teaching was the main reason for me choosing the class. My expectations coming into the year were similar to what I got out of 252, a hands-on experience in programming a new language I had never tried before. Having struggled with programming before I wasn't expecting to be overly successful coding, I was mainly looking to add basic knowledge of another programming language, learn how software is developed and gain experience using databases and MySQL. My expectations changed somewhat through the semester, however, simply because we were working strictly with php and databases rather than actually developing software like the class title implies. Although I was a little disappointed, I knew what we were learning was useful and would look good on a job resume so I forced myself to at least get a general knowledge of the material so I could understand how it all works. Because I am admittedly a poor/impatient programmer, I focused more on understanding the material on a practical level rather than actually getting the code to work. Before the class I was familiar with terms such as databases and queries but I had no idea what exactly they did and how they could be implemented within a program. As far as the semester project, our team bounced between several ideas but I thought the one that really brought together what we were learning in the class the best was our Jack Brown's phone app. While trying and ultimately failing at getting a good portion of our code working, I actually feel as though I learned a lot. Looking at several tutorials and forums online I realized that there were several different ways to approach each problem. Additionally, while trying to get my code to work I felt as though I got a grasp on how to at least read and understand what was going on. Looking in the future, this class has exposed me to not only a new coding

language but also showed me how databases can be incorporated into programs. This class added valuable technical experience to my resume making me more appealing and qualified to possible employers. With that being said I believe I deserve a B or B+ in this class. While getting frustrated with the programming and not ultimately being successful, I was able to learn about php and MySQL, as well as how and when to incorporate a database within a program. With your teaching style I was able to come into class comfortably, despite knowing coding was involved, and expand my technical experience. As someone who isn't good at programming but enjoys the concept and can appreciate it, I never would have taken this class if I had to complete assignment after assignment, but because of the relaxed teaching style I was able to enjoy the class and accomplish my goals for the semester.

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ISAT 340
Dr. Morgan Benton
December 12, 2012

Exit Essay

Coming into the class, I was pretty nervous. I had bare minimum experience with PHP and none with MySQL or phpMyAdmin. I was excited to learn how to use databases though because I knew storing information would be a useful technique when it comes to programming. Over time though, I became frustrated with the work. First, phpMyAdmin crashed on my computer soon followed by XAMPP. Then, I would try dozens of different code to still have it turn out with no results. Luckily, a senior in IKM showed me Koding.com where I could put my code online and have it connect to a database. This would also allow me to display my code through a website to see how it would turn out. Thankfully, that made life much easier.

I set the goals of having not only a database connection to our semester project, but also establishing one within a website I decided to display my own resume. After going to a job fair during the semester, I discovered that many companies wanted to see physical results of my work (since I'm leaning toward a web-development career) and started work on a personal site. I also set the goal of making it responsive for mobile devices and tablets. Lastly, I decided a way to show off my database skills to companies was to have viewers input their information and have it translate to a database.

I was pretty successful in having my sites do what I wanted them to do. It took a lot of work to get the concepts down and was frustrating at times. However, I still

want to further develop my personal site as I learn more and develop my coding skills. My evidence can be seen through my personal site on www.koding.com.

As I progress forward, I will be taking two semesters off from coding through IKM in the ISAT program. However with my recent declaration of SMAD as a second major, I plan to take web development courses and gain a deeper sense of graphic design. I also plan to code on my own time and continue to go through sample tutorials. I also want to look more into frameworks like Ruby on Rails and into the now popular node.js for further coding development.

This being said, I feel I deserve an “A” in ISAT 340. I not only learned the fundamentals of the course through database development, but progressed further in other languages and gained a deeper appreciation of web development. I only missed a few classes and always came to hacking at night where I was able to further programming skills. I acknowledge that I am no step closer to being an expert; however, I have gained skills that motivate me to continue to gain knowledge on varying languages in coding. I also have become a much better proof-reader of code and can correct for errors far more readily than I was able to last year.

Exit Essay

Initially I did not have any specific expectations for this class. I came into this not having much of any idea as to what we would be doing for the semester. This changed in the first few weeks as I began to understand the basics of php and how to do a database analyses through our lab 1 tutorial on adding students and classes and began to get a feel for how html, php, mysql, and javascript worked together to create a webpage. I began to feel overwhelmed with all of the information and wanted to gain a basic grasp and knowledge of enough of everything to complete our semester project. My goals changed weekly based on whatever we were stuck on in our semester project, but generally my goal for the week was to get unstuck, wherever that may have been the week before.

I achieved this by going to the weekly hacking sessions, showing up to class every day, meeting with my group usually at least one other time besides hacking session and class during the week, and looking through a lot of tutorials and code on the internet. One of the places that I got stuck throughout the semester was how to make a basic table in html, which I found a tutorial for on code academy and examples of in the lab 1 example. One of the larger problems I ran into was how to get objects in a table from the database to show up on our website. This was resolved through more code searching and looking at the lab 1 example, plus a lot of trial and error and help at hacking session. Where my group eventually got very stuck was with dynamic tables. After a lot of research and tutorials and questions, we got our database website almost up and functional, but with a few errors.

I think that moving forward, this is something that would be worthwhile completing; if not by me (since I will be gone) then by the other members of my group. I enjoyed creating our database because we all found something that pertained to our interests and specialties. It worked out well that we are all environment concentrations. I feel that with from the zero knowledge I had coming into this course, I was able to accomplish and understand a great deal and have exceeded my own expectations. I think that I deserve an A based on my hard work and perseverance.

I was very excited when I learned how this class was structured. I had never had the chance to self-direct myself through a subject based on what I wanted to learn. When I first signed up for the class I really wasn't looking forward to the material. I expected that my professor for the class would shovel information down my throat, like every one of my previous professors.

I am taking the IKM sector to further my knowledge of basic computer functions, programming, concepts, and applications. I am not taking the sector because I want to become a programmer. My goal for the course was to learn enough information so that I may be able to translate the needs of a customer to a project team. I figured that if I don't receive an entry level position with a company that works with renewable energy I could hopefully rely on my knowledge obtained through the IKM sector.

I first started the class with a few goals, some of which I accomplished. One of my first goals was to understand the bigger picture of what can be done with this knowledge. This goal was easily accomplished through a little research on the internet and class discussions. My next few goals included learning a few of the programming languages necessary for the class. Once I dove into this material I soon realized that it was above my head and not what I really wanted to get out of my time in the class.

Soon after this realization I began to get overwhelmed with the amount of work required outside of my other classes. Each week I seemed to have less and less time to explore the subject. Around this time I made the decision to focus my time on classes that I thought would be most crucial to my major sector (Energy). This was not a decision I wanted to make but it was necessary. Even though I took all of the time I had set aside for this class and used it for my Thermodynamics and Environmental Science and Technology classes I still seemed to be falling behind.

I was not very helpful to my project group throughout the semester. I regret that I was not able to make it to the hacking sessions and all of our meetings. Although I may not have been very beneficial to my group they were very helpful in my learning. We worked through the beginnings of the project and with help I understood the process of creating a database. As time went on and the project focused on the coding aspect I lost interest.

Despite my experience this semester, I am looking forward to my next IKM sector class. I believe that modeling and simulation will be something that I can use to benefit my energy concentration. I am hoping that I will learn how to simulate different cycles and further my knowledge and interests related to the energy sector.

I learned more about myself this semester than I did throughout my freshmen and sophomore years. One of the things I learned is that I do not agree with many of the ways my classes are structured. I believe that learning should be self-directed and motivated. It's a shame that I will never use most of the information taught in my classes. I think that education should be designed to let you

explore the things you are really interested in instead of wasting your time being force fed the same information as everyone else. That being said, I know the education system is not going to change and that if I am interested in something that is not taught in class that I should make time to explore it. It's just unfortunate that I usually don't have the extra time to spend researching these interests.

I was originally going to ask for a lesser grade because I felt like I had not achieved all that I set out to do throughout the class. I did put forth the effort but I lacked the time to meet all of my goals. However, for the first time I am really worried about my gpa because of my performance in my Thermodynamics. I know that you do not care about grades, but the way the educational system is set up I must. Apparently someone is only as good as what they have about them on paper, so I would be very grateful to receive an A or B in the class.

(A)

340 Exiting Essay

My expectations for this class at the very beginning of the semester were to learn some more about programming and the basics of software development. My expectations did not necessarily change over time but my motivation and enthusiasm did however change over the course of the semester. After taking the first programming course ISAT 252, I was very conflicted and unsure of what I wanted to do because programming interested me but I wasn't quite sure how much I actually enjoyed it. I finally decided the best option would be to enroll in this course ISAT 340 software development, to further test the waters and see if this was really something I could enjoy and take pleasure in. Unfortunately I found that this area of study just wasn't for me, this was a personal decision I made for no other reason than I just didn't get any enjoyment from programming anymore. This was a decision I had to make for myself, and no one is responsible for the decision that I have made but myself. However I did set goals for myself this semester the two biggest of which were to learn something new and have a good time while learning it. I definitely did accomplish these two things; I learned many things this semester that are applicable in my everyday life such as how to better work in a group. I also learned a lot about myself this semester more than I thought I could and this class helped with that. I will admit that I do not have much hard evidence to prove or support the fact that I have definitely gained some valuable knowledge from this course. I think the question of how well I have achieved my goals is subjective because I believe that I have achieved an acceptable and reasonable amount of my original goals. So what does this mean for the future, I am unsure? Well I am looking forward to ISAT 341 modeling and simulation. I hope I can learn some cool material that I can incorporate with my environmental concentration. I am also looking forward to this 252/341 kickoff assignment it seems like a lot of fun. With all this being said I feel like a B would be a fair grade to report to the registrar.

Ryan Lutz

Exit Essay

CIS 340

Upon registering for this class, I thought that I would be learning all about Software Development. I thought that we would be creating different apps, games, and other small simple versions of software throughout the semester. I was very interested in this, because I wanted to learn more about mobile app development as well as other types of software. After about the first week, I realized that this class was not exactly what I thought I had signed up for. I learned that the curriculum was based around database development mainly. This was somewhat of a disappointment because I really like everything we learned in 240 but I have no interest in databases. I have no interest in databases because I used to be a business major and I was going to be a CIS major. After taking a CIS class in the business school, I realized that I did not have much desire to be in this sort of work.

My initial goal for this class was to make something useful that was related to the class. My group and I set out to make a database to help organize the process of selecting bands for UPB. We worked on this project for several weeks and started to get our code into place, when we realized that our database was exactly a database, but more of an application. There was no integrity to our tables and it did not really have the qualities of a database. This was not a huge deal to my group because we just wanted to make something that was actually useful, but after looking further into it, we realized that there wasn't much sense in continuing the project. After stopping this project, my group and I decided that we would make a database for all of the beers at Jack Browns.

We started our Jack Browns database a couple weeks ago and have made some progress. We have written a good deal of code for it, unfortunately much of which did not work. I most definitely

would not say that we mastered PHP and SQL during this project, but we definitely know a hundred different ways that don't work. We have very little code to show for the actual Jack Browns database, but we do have code to show for the UPB database that we made.

I think I definitely did learn a lot in this class. I realized that I have no desire to learn anything else about databases, but I also realized that I really enjoyed the creative environment that we had as a class, because there was a lot of great work that came from class. I am very happy that I took the class because I got to become better friends with Alan and I got to meet D.J. who is a pretty cool dude to chill with. I think three of us will definitely still be friends in the future and hopefully we can finish the Jack Browns database.

I believe that I should be in the B+ area when it comes to this class. I didn't really accomplish anything great in the class and even though I did learn a lot, I do not really have that much to show for it. If I were to do it again, I would definitely do it differently. I would think of a project based more on practicality than interest in the project.