

i4software Second Round Project

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Introduction

My name is Matthew Tobino. Due to personal circumstances, I was not able to start this project until June 27, 2023. With that in mind, I did my best to expedite the entire process to showcase my abilities and adaptability. Now that that elephant is out of the room, this code stems from my growing interest in basketball and my desire to learn more about it. I wanted to take on a challenge that would help me and other newcomers to the sport.

Design

While the idea of an NBA player stat catalog is nothing new, I find that it is hard to understand most of the websites that host and provide the information. This is mainly because my knowledge of basketball is quite limited. The goal in mind was to create a website that could provide essential knowledge of a player with the minimal amount of information required from the user. The user simply has to provide the full name of the player they wish to review and the year that the player participated in. After doing so, the JavaScript code will fetch the data from the open-sourced API and parse the data into a more readable format.

Development

The code was developed in VSCode and allowed me to gain a base understanding of how to use JavaScript and open-sourced APIs. One challenge I overcame while developing this application was figuring out the HTML to output the result and format the website. Typically, I worked with more backend languages, such as Java and Python. However, I saw an opportunity to showcase a new skill I picked up during the summer.

Testing

Since the code was written in VSCode, I used the “Go Live” extension to help test my code. The extension allowed me to see how my HTML and JavaScript files would work and

display on a locally run server. Using this extension greatly enhanced my ability to test and run my code. Another way I tested my code was through the console on the locally run server. This allowed me to test some finer details and allowed me to use a debugger on the JavaScript portion of the code.

Problem-Solving Process

While it is every programmer's dream to say that there were no problems that occurred throughout the entire process, it is an unfortunate truth that very few of us can ever say it worked perfectly on the first try. Most of my problems stemmed from a lack of experience with JavaScript and HTML. However, a lack of experience can be made up with thoughtful research and exploration. I utilized the resources I found to seal any cracks I came across and prevent further cracks from appearing. This does not mean I just googled my way to a solution but rather showcases that I will look for help if I cannot answer a question solely by myself.

Conclusion

As stated before, this project was rushed. The outcome is still a project I know I can be proud of, but I know there is room for improvement. One improvement I would like to add is a news article display. While researching APIs, I found a News one that would scan the web and return a JSON format of news articles relevant to the imputed search parameters. I would have used this to look up recent articles on the players the user searched for. I also could have used it to keep track of NBA teams and their respective news. Another facet I would like to explore is a more custom style for the website. Currently, the style is based on one from a class I took. I would like to redo this eventually to a more sporty style in the future.