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CS 499 Milestone 2

**Briefly describe the artifact. What is it? When was it created?**

The artifact I selected is my Travlr Getaways full-stack web application from CS 465. I originally created it in August of 2025 as a MEAN stack project using MongoDB, Express, Angular, and Node. The app lets users view trips from a database and provides an admin interface for managing trips.

**Justify the inclusion of the artifact in your ePortfolio. Why did you select this item? What specific components of the artifact showcase your skills and abilities in software development? How was the artifact improved?**

I chose this project because it demonstrates my ability to work across the full stack, designing routes, building REST APIs, and connecting to a database. For this enhancement, I improved configuration by adding dotenv, added Helmet for security, tightened CORS, and created a global error handler for consistent responses. I also redesigned the trips page into modern responsive cards and updated the about page for a cohesive design.

**Did you meet the course outcomes you planned to meet with this enhancement in Module One? Do you have any updates to your outcome-coverage plans?**

Yes, I met my plan from Module One by focusing on software design and engineering. This work clearly ties to Course Outcome 3 by showing my ability to evaluate and improve system design choices. At this stage, I don’t need to adjust my outcome plan.

**Reflect on the process of enhancing and modifying the artifact. What did you learn as you were creating it and improving it? What challenges did you face?**

I learned how to separate configuration from code using environment variables, which makes deployment safer and more flexible. I also gained experience setting up Express middleware for security and error handling. My biggest challenge was troubleshooting the refactored controller when it broke due to a node import issue, but resolving it gave me more confidence in debugging Node/Express apps.