

March 4, 2011

From: Nicholas Poorman

To: Dr. Alex Pantaleev

Subject: Status Report - Advanced Studies in Web Development

Alex,

Below is my status report for my advanced studies in web development.

Recently I have been doing research into how I am going to implement the backend for the website. Having already done websites using Java EE with various persistence frameworks (JPA, hibernate + struts) as well as using Python I decided to take a look into Ruby on Rails. Rails has two main selling points that jumped out at me. The first is the ability for rapid development and deployment -ruby even comes with its own deployment server and the second is the clear Model View Controller pattern used by Rails. This last week I spent most of my time going through tutorials for Ruby and then moving onto the Rails framework. I began by going to <http://tryruby.org/> which has an interactive tutorial for learning about Ruby. From there I went to <http://railsforzombies.org> and went through the tutorials for creating a Twitter for Zombies website using Ruby on Rails. I didn't feel comfortable enough with Rails at this point so I began reading through the online book "Ruby on Rails Tutorial" by Michael Hartl, which can be found here: <http://ruby.railstutorial.org/ruby-on-rails-tutorial-book>.

My goal for this weekend is to finish the tutorial and to begin laying the groundwork for users of the site by defining the Model classes. I also spent a brief amount of time looking over jQuery as a viable solution to controlling the graphical aspects of the video player and the frame tags. One last thing I began to look at was the use of SQLite. SQLite doesn't provide a network interface to its database thus no service is needed making setup considerably easier.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Poorman