Tim Walsh

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SoCalendar

Senior Design Assessment

My primary development responsibilities for this project was to develop the front end of a phone application. Other than that Nick and I split the work when it came to documentation and architecting communication between the phone and server. At the beginning of this project my goal was to improve my front-end development skill with React-Native. I had gotten minimal experience throughout my CO-OPs developing front ends, so this was so this was a really intriguing process for me.

I got to plan, layout and design the entire front facing application for this project, to do this I had to consider visual appeal and functional ease. I went through a number of design iterations and was constantly evolving things. I made the mistake of designing screens before laying out navigation, which I learned doing navigation first would have saved me a lot of headaches. I also made the mistake of using some libraries which didn’t provide benefits to me in the long run I then had to cut them out of the code base and rewrite their functionality. Rewriting the functionality served to benefit my skills and the application worked better, however this took a lot of time and lead to me not finishing some features that I wanted.

Nick and I managed to make a phone application and server that we are pretty proud of. I still really love the idea for this project, but we did not achieve everything we set out to do. A good portion of some of our goals were unachieved due to the unlikely and unfortunate events that occurred this spring, however some of our aspirations may have been lofty in the first place. Originally, Nick and I wanted to get the application deployed to a QA state, but due to the applications purpose of encouraging person to person social interactions it would have been impossible to get usage data in during social distancing.

Putting our shortcomings aside, Nick and I worked well together, and I managed to learn a lot. I do wish that we had another partner to help with effort, but seeing as it has been rough to communicate now that Nick and I are in different time zones I don’t know that adding more people would have helped. Nick and I were definitely have both worked hard on this project, but I definitely want to give him recognition for all the sleep I know he has been losing working late nights on the backend.