

Web Systems I
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Assignment #15

Learning by doing

It is without saying that this was the most enjoyable class of the semester. The class started with the need to create and publish programs which included core programming fundamentals such as form validation and interactivity of users with data on a live website.

The large collection of example code and lectures provided more than enough information to learn and practice elements of web design using HTML/CSS as well as application development using Javascript and JQuery. While working as a team in the class project, business and communication skills were practiced and evaluated through our work with a specific client. Gathering user requirements and deciding design details as well as creating, implementing, and testing a real-world application became a rewarding hands-on experience. The creation of our individual websites now serves as a portfolio and summary of the skills learned.

Searching for jobs in the realms of information technology and web development, I found that the skills learned here are already marketable abilities, however there are still many avenues of education needed to secure my dream job. Of these, design and front end development are where I lack the most. Since JQuery knowledge is a highly sought after skill, use of it in this class provided experience and knowledge needed for almost any future web developer job. I have some prior knowledge of Database connected applications and outdated C++ and C# skills which will need to be improved upon in order to seek a job using those technologies. Because I'm scheduled to take Web II and Database II next semester, I believe many of the full-stack developer skills needed in today's web developer job market will be learned in the coming months.

Although I was able to complete all the assignments on time, a lot of material was covered and I found myself hurrying each assignment as a way to ensure I could get the basic requirements met. Given more time or perhaps less workload in this semester (I'm a full time student), I would have tried to further abstract code as a way to more engineer my solutions in keeping with "GOOD PROGRAMMING" strategies. The assignment requirements and grading system were completely achievable and the ability to address any issues (submitting a subsequent version) makes doing well in this class a certainty. The instructor was the timeliest and most responsive of all my classes this semester. Extensive use of the discussion board between students and the professor added both information to be learned as well as quality feedback as our school work progressed. Thanks to this class there are at least another 15 or so websites in the world, as well as many more to come!