Darrell Chism

Southern New Hampshire University

CS-499

Milestone Two: Narrative

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

The artifact is a mobile app for Android that allows users to track their weight. It was created for my CS-260 class, in July/August of 2022.

1. **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 selected this item because it was the most involved piece of software development I had worked on in class to date. Having completely built this from the ground up, I felt it showcased my ability to critically think, to innovate, and to build genuinely good software. I believe every component of this artifact showcases my skills and abilities, but if I had to choose specifics, it would be the UI, database retrieval techniques and secure coding techniques. To be more specific, the UI showcases my ability to understand a user’s needs when it comes to software, how to design a UI that benefits a user and makes it easy for them to navigate. Database retrieval techniques and secure coding techniques showcase my ability to follow coding standards, to ensure that my coding style minimizes vulnerability risks and my thorough commenting aids in readability as well as thinking about future developers reading my code.

So far, the artifact’s UI and some of the database retrieval has been improved. Prior to this enhancement, the UI was extremely plain, with basic colors that clashed with each other and did not lend itself well to user functionality. Now, the UI is bright, colorful, text boxes do not lay on top of one-another and are placed in a way that feels more comfortable for users. Even though this week was only for UI enhancement, I have already started on database retrieval for the following milestones.

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

Yes, I have met the course objectives that I had planned to meet with this enhancement plan. My entire goal for this enhancement plan was to enhance the UI to be more user-friendly and I have achieved that goal, plus some. Currently, I do not have any updates to my outcome-coverage plans. I am happy with my plans for enhancement going forward and do not see any future issues.

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

One thing I’ve learned is better researching. I spent many late-night hours researching color schemes that would lend itself to my UI enhancement. At first, I struggled finding a color palette that I felt would enhance user experience, trying many different colors and having friends and family give me their thoughts. When I felt like I had reached a wall, I decided to do some research on scientific studies of colors and how they affect people’s perceptions. I took what I learned and used that to enhance the UI and after some more tweaking, found positive results within my testing circle.

**Below are screenshots from the original design of my app, for comparison purposes to the new UI that I am submitting.**

A screenshot of a login form

Description automatically generatedA screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated