

Self-Assessment

For our Inexpensive Gaming project, I contributed to all the backend development as well as some of the frontend. For the backend I wrote the scripts that farmed data from sites like Microcenter and Newegg. I also implemented the MongoDB database which the python script pushes to. For the frontend I helped with displaying the data from the database. This meant implementing scripts to connect the database as well as showing it in the designated pages. Through this I was able to continue working on my teamwork skills as well as furthering my knowledge in web scraping with python.

The web scraping was done using Requests and BeautifulSoup4. With this I could use CSS selectors which I found on the websites by inspecting the different elements from which I wanted the data of. I then used the MongoDB module to send the data from the script into tables on our MongoDB database which is in the cloud. We then again used the MongoDB API for NextJS to connect our website to the database. Through this I learned about how MongoDB databases work as well as a little bit of how data is displayed using NextJS. I found great success with the web scraping though there were a few obstacles along the way which meant there needed to be different conditionals that took a lot of time to figure out. This was due to different pages being laid out differently or opening pages that did not correspond to the parts we wanted. There were also many obstacles we faced with displaying the data as neither of us have much web development experience. This included trying to figure out dynamic routing as well as how to use the API for MongoDB.

Team-Assessment

Overall, we accomplished most of our Goals. We were able to farm the price data for different parts as well as displaying it. We ran into issues with finding a good way to farm the benchmark data as well as how to implement a good way to check the requirements data for different games. Through this I learned that group work depends on working together to figure out problems. There were many issues we were met with during the final stages of the project which we were trying to handle independently, however, once we met, we were able to figure at least a few of them out.

The aspects of teamwork we found successful were when we came together regularly to make plans and to workout bugs. We were able to make a lot of progress when this happened. This quickly fell apart though when we didn't meet as regularly as we were both starting to get burnt out due to the numerous issues we were facing and didn't have as much motivation to push through them. Overall, our efforts were similar. I feel that my effort may have been marginally more since I worked on both the front and back end, however, this was not due to lack of effort from my partner.