

What to do after INFO6250?

- You are web developers
 - And have been for a while
- Easy to forget details
- Practice!
 - Write projects
 - Maintain over time
- Always more to learn
 - So much!
- Tap into info sources

Practice

Best way to improve as a coder is to code

- Experience tells you what is "right"
- Gain experience by doing it "wrong"
- Debugging skills are huge!

Make a public repo

- Contribute over time
 - Not a one-time dump!
 - Important difference!

Code changes over time

- Teach you more
 - "It depends"...on what?
 - Revisiting old code
 - Reveals poor communication
- Give you an interview topic
 - Not just "how", but "why"
- Show value to employers
 - Primary skill not taught in schools
 - Because "over time"
 - Did my best with revisit

Show, don't tell

- Have Code Repos
 - That are YOUR code
 - Changes over time
 - What can they easily see/understand?
- Have Deployed code
 - Websites someone can visit and use
 - Can they see you know something useful?

This was just one course

- We've covered a LOT of material
 - Industry is so much larger
 - Expect to never stop learning
 - But remember to enjoy!
- Here are topics as options
 - Some covered not well enough
 - Some not covered at all
 - You WILL NOT learn them all
 - Treat as a menu, not demands
- But first, what if you're not going into WebDev?

Not Doing Web Dev?

"Knowing" web dev is still useful for:

- Dev, but Non-Web
- Project/Product Managers
- Management/Leadership
- Any other skill expertise

There are still some lessons to take from course

Lessons for non-web developers

- Debugging
 - Not Magical!
 - A methodical process
 - Find *where* it goes wrong
- Communication!
 - It's about people, not processors
- Code for Change
 - Change is the real problem we solve for
 - "Make it work" isn't the real ask

More General Lessons

- Abstract to manage complexity
 - DRY
 - Focus on "contract" (input/output)
- Abstraction has a cost!
 - YAGNI, AHA/WET
- Minimize coupling to allow easy changes
- Which concerns to Separate?
 - Role (MVC) vs Responsibilities (Components)
- Data Model (state) drives everything
- Data Model allows abstraction of concepts

Unit/Integration Testing - Wish I could squeeze in!

- But isn't small topic
 - Particularly with Web UI
- Will be used everywhere
- **Tests offer confidence about change**

You should start writing tests!

- Server-side logic easier to start with
- Focus on "pure" logic, not integrated
 - Where you test input vs output
 - Functions/Methods
 - Don't test HOW a function works
 - Test WHAT it returns for given input
- Vitest/Jest/Mocha+Chai are most common
- Components are functions too!
- Remember your goal:
 - Input gives expected output

What are you testing?

You want confidence about change

- Avoid "brittle" tests
 - Don't match exact output (for HTML)
 - Match impact of input on output

Unit tests are NOT integration

- Test the "units" in isolation
- Does this test add confidence?

Lots of Coverage Debate

What percentage of code lines are tested?

- Much debate on target: 80%? 100%?
- Gets weird with 3rd party code
 - Already tested, but not by your tests
 - Don't recreate testing
- Focus on tests that give **confidence**

Testing is Communication

- Tests document the expected behavior
- **Write tests to communicate**
 - Strings in test code matter!
 - BAD: `it('input', () => {...});`
 - GOOD: `it('validates input', () => {...});`
- Balance abstraction in tests
 - Keep tests easy to understand and change
 - Keep tests as communicative
 - Delicate balance
 - Needs Practice!

There ARE integration tests

Tests combining units

- Slower, more brittle
- But closer to testing real product
- Don't repeat tests from units
 - Already tested!
- Test the assumptions when units integrated
- Test the flow of output to input
- Some argue we should do mostly integration
 - Common concept is to do mostly unit
 - **<https://kentcdodds.com/blog/write-tests>**

Test Driven Development (TDD)

Practice of writing tests, then code

- Red-Green-Refactor cycle
- Easier when covering a mostly-known interface
- Harder when doing exploratory code
- Builds good habits
 - Create code that is easily testable
- Takes time to adjust to
 - You will code slower for ~6 months
 - Very rough estimate!
 - Then you are as fast or faster!
- Generates a lot of confidence

Writing Tests After Writing Code

- Fairly common practice
 - Write code until it mostly works
 - Then write tests
 - Check for all cases
 - Detect problems in the future
- Can have problems if your code is "hard to test"
 - Ex: uses hidden/private/internal methods
 - Ex: needs state only set by series of steps
- Allow time for this when estimating!
 - Most places: code not done until tested

Accounts

- We did simplified "create account on login"
 - I don't want to encourage poor security
 - Takes time
 - You have the theoretical skills
 - Build a user registration system
 - Good for final!
- But theory isn't practice
- Still avoid managing passwords - use experts!
- If you must manage passwords, remember
 - Proper, modern, hash+salting
 - Never store passwords

Tokens other than cookies

- We covered session id cookies
- Didn't use other tokens
 - JWT, API keys, etc
- Can be sent as header in fetch()
 - NOT automatic like cookies are
 - You know how to set headers
 - Theory isn't practice
- Often hidden from client JS
 - Cookie with "Secure" flag
 - Not SPA friendly

OAuth is an entire thing

- Redirect user to 3rd-party site for login
- They redirect back to your site with a code
 - You send code to 3rd-party to get the token
- You never see the password

Many libraries or do it directly

- Every OAuth Provider is a little different
- Great way to avoid user password management
- But work to set up

Websockets for polling for changes

- You can do a lot without websockets
 - I've never written one outside of test code
 - b/c I haven't written apps that poll a lot
- But they are great for performant polling code
 - Vital if your app polls frequently

GraphQL

- Popular!
- Simplifies backend endpoint design
 - Endpoints for data categories
 - Not endpoints for data interactions
- Increases network design concerns
 - Caching, versioning, etc
 - REST used HTTP conventions
- Often involves libraries/frameworks
 - Both frontend/backend

We only skimmed Input Validation

- Deeply complex topic
- Done wrong more often than right
- Initial solutions often recreated (poorly)
 - Email addresses
 - Phone numbers
 - Names
- Timing of validation
 - Not before entered
 - As entered?
 - Field loses focus?
 - Form submit attempted?

Input Validation is a big deal

- Both front end and backend
- Security concerns
- Privacy concerns
- User Communication/UX
- Important data
- Difficult!
 - User data is messy

Git deserves more attention

- `git` is a core tool
- It should be more than "type these commands"
 - On problem, wipe repo/branch and recreate
 - Instead, should understand, choose fix
- Very frustrating to learn while solving a problem
 - Learn in depth when NOT having a problem
- `git` is history of code!
 - Allows backing up and trying again
 - Allows multiple "what if" experiments
 - Allows you to find trends in errors
- You should be a master of your core tools

We only covered CORS from front end

- CORS rules are defined by server response
 - Enforced by browser
- Many headers to control rules
 - Server has to emit them
- You can set headers on server
- You can define OPTIONS route
- But we didn't dive into the choices
- Commonly poorly understood!
 - Backend doesn't need it
 - Frontend can't change it

Other server-to-browser security features

CSP - Content Security Policy

- Response headers restrict browser load of JS/etc
- Can prevent the loading of external resources
- Can prevent the loading of unapproved resources
- Can prevent running inline JS

CSP is **managed by the server**

- Best defense against XSS
- Used *with* sanitizing input, not *instead of*

Javascript

- We covered a lot of JS
 - Needed for frontend!
- But this isn't a Javascript course
- May need more for interviews
- Will want more if JS is primary language

JS Topics to explore

- JS Prototypes
 - All inheritance is through prototypes
- JS Classes
 - Not fundamental like some languages
 - Common in some places + circumstances
- Closures
- `await/async`
 - Different syntax for promise management
 - Very, very popular!
 - Easier to learn well if you know Promises well
 - But still a new syntax

We didn't touch TypeScript

MANY Employers are shifting to TypeScript

- And individual fans like it anyway
- Build-time check of type safety
 - Increases confidence of change
 - Improves hinting from IDE
- Expansion of JS syntax
 - Requires you know JS
- Additional build step to do/configure

Truly Understanding JS

To learn more about how JS really works

- "You Don't Know JS Yet" by *getify* (Kyle Simpson)
- **<https://github.com/getify/You-Dont-Know-JS>**

Automated e2e(end-to-end) testing

Mosts tests are unit or integration

- e2e testing is slow, brittle
- But e2e testing has a place

Different toolsets

- selenium, webdriverio, cypress, puppeteer
- They run browser
 - You talk to them, not to browser code
 - Mostly

We only developed and tested in Chrome

- Most popular browser
- We stuck to well behaved standards

I lived through the Browser Wars

- (long stare into the distance)
- We don't want that again
 - But it's a continuing risk
- You should validate against all major browsers
- Firefox is very popular among devs for DevTools

We only used Webpack as a bundler

...and we didn't LEARN it

- Webpack has many options and plugins
 - Tree shaking
 - Code splitting + lazy loading
- Other bundlers exist
 - Rollup, Snowpack, Parcel
 - Vite uses Rollup

We haven't discussed copyright + licenses

Being on the web does NOT let you use it for free!

- Copyright is a legal protection
 - Details vary by country
 - In US: Automatic protection on creation
- Need permission to use
 - Even in private
- Covers "derived works" as well
 - Works based on other works
- "I'm not charging money"
 - Not a defense!

A "license" is a permission to use

- Different licenses have different rules
 - How to give credit
 - Can you change/derive?
 - What license can YOU use on derived work?
 - Can you sell?
- Some common licenses
 - GPL (v2 + v3)
 - MIT
 - BSD (a few)
 - Apache
 - Creative Commons licenses (multiple)

You can "get away with" ignoring for a while

...but you risk a really painful experience

- You might be taking someone's livelihood
- Or annoying a corp looking to make an example
- US Law allows for triple damages
 - "damage" is not limited by your profit!
- Employers really frown on problems
 - Costly, Embarrassing, Frightening
- Can be very bad socially
- Better to learn, understand, and follow

Other "Intellectual Property"(IP) Concepts

- Patents are a separate concept
 - Govern processes, not works
 - Turbulent recent history in tech
 - Companies LOVE getting patents
 - May push their devs to get some
- Trademarks are a separate concept
 - Govern identifying mark, name, look, etc
 - Don't copy the look of a site too much!
 - Avoid names that are "confusingly" similar
 - This is where enforcement is required
 - Not all "IP"

Your Employer Won't Teach You Copyright Law

- But they will expect you to follow it!
- Track where any external resources came from
- ...and what license allows you to use it
 - Images
 - CSS
 - JS libraries
- Companies do check on this
 - Usually infrequent and irregular
 - What will you do when that happens?

We didn't discuss i18n and l10n

- i18n is "internationalization"
 - Because 18 letters between "i" and "n"
 - Programmers are really lazy :)
 - Providing multiple languages
 - Including orientation
- l10n is "localization"
 - Managing different dates/numbers
- Surprisingly complex!
 - Different pluralizations
 - Space for text
- Automatic translation is still garbage

a11y is "accessibility"

- Usable with disabilities
 - Color blindness
 - Blindness
 - Poor fine motor control
 - Temp or lasting injury
 - Holding a baby/pet
 - Using phone while on bouncing bus
- Very important field
- Often neglected field
 - Opportunities!

a11y has a lot of controls available in HTML/JS

- And a lot of ways to ruin the experience
 - Particularly with JS
- Devs need to learn how to do well
 - And what not to do
- Most general tutorials ignore this

We didn't discuss Deploying

How to put the code on a "real" website?

- Need a "host"
- Static file hosting is easier/cheaper
 - Github pages
 - Amazon S3
- Server code is a bit more involved
 - Railway.app
 - Vercel
 - Render.com
 - Netlify
 - Cloudflare Pages

Our examples for class are harder to deploy

Most free hosts don't have one or more of

- Stable memory (they shutdown and restart often)
- Filesystem access
- Ability to deploy server code

To show off work like ours, I recommend one of:

- Using render and accept frequent reset
- Use remote database for persistence (\$?)
- Use filesystem to persist data (\$)

Separating the parts

- We combined our static server and services server
- This impacts deployment!
 - Many hosts w/"React" only cover static side
 - But will build for you
 - Anything covering services covers static
 - But you need to arrange built files
 - Commit or ensure build step
- Consider if you want to separate to deploy
- Documentation for deploying has gotten worse?
 - My experience

We didn't use HTTPS

Using HTTPS on a host is usually easy

- They usually manage the certificate
- Code doesn't change
- But configuring the DNS is daunting
 - Also have to wait for changes
 - "TTL" = "Time To Live"
 - Frustrating if you make mistake

A workplace may have CI System

CI = "Continuous Integration"

- Means "Runs tests on merged code"
 - Before actual merge is allowed
- Many systems
 - Jenkins
 - Travis CI
 - Github Actions
- CI/CD is a step further
 - CD = "Continuous Deployment"
 - If tests pass and merge happens
 - So does deployment!

We didn't discuss Documentation

- Most devs want to "code", not "document"
- Programming is Communication
 - Poor documentation is poor programming
- Many docs based on audience
 - New devs to team? (Onboarding)
 - Users of the product (Product Docs)
 - Coders using the code (Functional Reference)
- Documentation is often neglected
 - This has a cost!
- Out of date documentation is worse than none!
 - Not an excuse not to document

Documentation is one form of "Tech Debt"

Tech Debt is resistance to change of code

- Updates that need to be made
- Fixing bugs
- Refactoring code
- Updating libraries
- Writing/Updating Docs
- Missing/failing tests

Tech Debt CANNOT be avoided

- But you CAN minimize

Tech Debt accrues interest

Over time, tech debt accrues "interest"

- Additional work necessary to stay where you are
 - Even MORE work necessary to improve
- Don't do the work, get MORE tech debt

Projects absolutely die from tech debt

- Rewrites are often not successful
- Why libraries aren't always a win

We haven't discussed Performance

Core questions:

- What are you optimizing for?
 - Projects often optimize for developer time!
- What is the major *real* slow down?
 - Never trust your instincts - measure!
 - Easy to waste time/make things worse!

Optimizing for Dev Time

No one WANTS to have sub-optimal performance

- But is a detail worth it?
- Developer time is very limited!
 - Much to code
 - Few (and expensive) devs
- Is the optimal code harder to change?

Is this performance a problem?

Benchmarking lets you know

- If something is actually slow
- If it is the slow that matters
- If a change is actually beneficial

Premature optimization is the root of all evil
-- Donald Knuth

- Your guess of inefficiency will often be wrong
- Your guess of what impacts real world time also

Don't act on guesses, measure with a benchmark

What to Benchmark on a web page/app

- TTFB (Time to First Byte)
- FCP (First Contentful Paint)
 - User is able to see useful data on the page
- TTI (Time to Interactive)
 - When the user can take meaningful action
- Load time - When all assets are loaded

Each is impacted by different details

- Network, server, frontend code, images, etc
- Make sure you're trying to solve the right problem

Most common performance problem is not code

Images are the most common source of slow loading

- Designers will often create unoptimized images
- Developers often just use any images they get
- You should size to actual size they will be used at
- You should optimize to balance filesize/quality
 - This is an entire skill

Where is the code issue?

One place I worked: ~15ms TTFB on service calls Another place:
~200ms TTFB on service calls

If we wanted a <1s TTI, that adds up!

- Services were much faster (~10ms)
- A network issue
 - No amount of coding would fix

Even as code issue, don't trust your instincts

Benchmarking shows where time is really spent

Consider:

- `function1()` takes 10ms, called once
- `function2()` takes 2ms, called 1000 times
 - 2000ms total

Better to improve `function2()`!

- Despite `function2()` being "faster"

Profiling the Page Load

- Chrome Devtools has
 - Performance Insights
 - Performance
 - Generally useless with React code, as it benchmarks React itself

Use these to benchmark the page itself

- For non-code assets
- Or vanilla JS code

Profiling React

React DevTools extension

- Adds "Profiler" for React pages
- Can get a flame graph of components
- Many options

Options to improve React performance

- "window" large arrays of data
 - Only render visible or near-visible rows
 - Reduces rerendering of data user can't see
- Prevent unnecessary rerendering
 - `useMemo()` and `useCallback()`
 - Don't use if not needed!
 - <https://kentcdodds.com/blog/usememo-and-usecallback>
- Memoize pure components!
 - `React.memo()` (not same as `useMemo()`)

Service calls are often a source of delay

- Avoid repeated/unnecessary calls
- Perform in background after load
- Cache results
 - `react-query` / `@tanstack/query`
 - Separates Service Data from UI Data

Other React Hooks

- `useRef()`
- `useMemo()`
- `useCallback()`
- Several others at
 - **<https://react.dev/reference/react/hooks>**

useRef ()

- Stores a value like `useState()`
- Doesn't trigger rerender when value changes
- Often used to hold reference to an element
- We skipped to avoid overuse

useMemo ()

- "memoizes" a value
 - Based on a function and other variables
 - Recalcs when other values change
- Used to avoid repeated expensive calculations
- We skipped to avoid overuse

useCallback()

- "memoizes" a callback
 - Based on variables
 - Recalcs when variables change
- Used to avoid unneeded rerendering
 - Functions defined in a component are NEW
 - Even if the same
 - Reads as new prop, triggers rerender
- We skipped to avoid overuse

We avoided even common React-compatible libs

We avoided to learn core concepts

- Redux
- `react-router` / `@tanstack/router`
- `react-query` (`@tanstack/query`)
 - Used to manage service data
 - Highly recommended
- Many, many conditional libraries
 - Forms and validations
 - Page flows
 - Service interactions
 - UI features

We avoided component-based styling

We used classical semantic CSS

- Many newer concepts exist
 - Ex: CSS Modules
 - Ex: styled-components
 - Ex: CSS-in-JS (losing favor?)
 - Ex: Tailwind, utility CSS
 - We avoided these to focus
 - Not because these are bad
 - Many opinions, few the same
 - Still being evaluated/argued over

Progressive Web Apps (PWA)

- Can be installed like an app
 - May look more "native"
- Can operate with cached data
 - Work "offline"
- Browser/OS support varies
- Vite offers a plugin
 - **<https://vite-pwa-org.netlify.app/>**
 - Managing the offline aspect is intricate

Electron allows actual apps

Electron wraps standalone Chrome with your app

- Slack is an Electron App
- Not great for performance
- Great to deploy for multi-OS mobile/desktop

Client Side Rendered SPAs are not only option

Exciting developments in moving React to server-side

- Ex: Next.js, Remix

Better performance for client

- Static Site Generation (SSG)
 - Build HTML/CSS
 - No client side JS to render
- Server Side Rendering (SSR SPA)
 - Does bulk of rendering on server
 - Sends result to client-side JS

Vite not only option

Example:

- `create-next-app` for Next.js
- `create-wmr` for WMR and Preact (React alternative)

React is not your only Front End option

- Preact (React syntax)
- Vue
- Svelte
- Solid JS
- Angular

Web Components can be built in multiple languages

- Solving different problems than web frameworks

Server Side has multiple benefits!

- SPAs load a lot into the front end
 - Narrow who/what can use the results!
 - Requires JS
 - Lots of frontend logic
- Server side pages, sites, and apps still useful!
 - Don't have to fix self-created problems!
 - Usable by a number of technologies
 - Reliable

JS is not your only language option

- Front end still mostly just JS
 - A few "built" languages
 - Clojurescript
 - WebAssembly not for DOM interaction yet
- Non-JS Backend languages exist :)
 - Will have libraries/frameworks
 - Java, .NET
 - Python, Ruby, PHP
 - Go, Rust,
 - Perl, C++, C

Front End Devs may need to run Backend

- Common to have to run "local webserver"
- Not coding the backend language
 - But have to run a server with it
 - Frequently "update" the local server
 - Pulling in changes from backend
 - And perhaps occasionally debug

Databases

Backend may interact with different databases

- SQL vs NoSQL
 - ACID discussions
 - Backups, failover
 - Lots of SQL/NoSQL overlap nowadays
- Details can trip you up!
 - inner join vs outer join
- Huge performance impacts
- Data security, Data reliability

We didn't use any Databases

- "Web doesn't change how programs use DBs"
- But database design/use is a whole thing!
 - That's why we skipped it
 - Better to give that dedicated study

InfoSec is an entire field

Vast Persistence and Variety in flaws

Quality Assurance is an entire field

More common for QA to become dev

- But Devs can move to QA
- A certain style of thinking
- Satisfaction counts for a lot
- A QA/Test Eng is a master of domain knowledge
 - Wide skill net

Information Sources

Web Tech changes rapidly

- How do you learn about new options?
- How do you learn new best practices?

My experience: You have to CHASE this

- Easy to get bubbled into what you do now
- New devs generate a lot of intro "noise"
 - Great for newbie perspective
 - Often contradictory
 - Sometimes bad advice

Finding Good Sources

- Sometimes good people get celebrity
- Other times you have to find them
 - Both tech and search engines have biases!
 - Keep your eyes open
- When you find someone good
 - How will you know their next bit of info?
 - Subscribe, follow, whatever
- "Curate" your sources often
 - Sources will get stale over time

Previous best source was Twitter 🐱💧

Samples from Mastodon:

@sarajw@front-end.social	@matuzo@front-end.social
@heydon@front-end.social	@shadeed9@front-end.social
@smashingmag@mastodon.social	@geoff@front-end.social
@leaverou@front-end.social	@aardrian@toot.cafe
@SaraSoueidan@front-end.social	@5t3ph@front-end.social
@b0rk@jvns.ca	@A11yAwareness@disabled.social
@Meyerweb@mastodon.social	@mia@front-end.social
@girlgerms@infosec.exchange	

Samples from Bluesky (excluding repeats):

@geekgalgroks.bsky.social	@joshwcomeau.com
@cassidoo.co	

Bluesky Starter Packs

<https://bsky.app/starter-pack-short/FfLUXeQ>
<https://bsky.app/starter-pack/piccalil.li/3kzombrx22n>

Blogs and RSS

Longform content is still important

I use RSS to keep track of blogs

- **<https://overreacted.io/>**
- **<https://www.joshwcomeau.com/>**
- **<https://css-tricks.com/>**
- **<https://adrianroselli.com/>**

Videos, Podcasts, and Streams

I'm a sucker for text, but others prefer other formats

- Same principles: Filter, Follow, and Curate

Samples:

- HTTP 203 Podcast
- **<https://www.youtube.com/kevinpowell>**
- **<https://youtu.be/wPcv9Rp4lHk>**

Conferences

- A few days dedicated a common topic
 - Great sources of info and inspiration
 - So many topics!
 - So good for extroverts!
 - Networking and friends
- Many conferences stream their talks
- Many conferences later post them online for free
 - Even for those that didn't attend in any way
 - So good for introverts!

Good Source of Sources

Annual "State of" surveys

- <https://stateofjs.com/>
- <https://stateofcss.com/>
- <https://stateofhtml.com/>
- <https://stateofreact.com/>

See "trends" in industry

- Remember a "trend" isn't what's best or possible

Lists of popular sites/logs/podcasts/videos

Bumps Ahead

- Imposter Syndrome
- Gatekeeping
- JS Hate
- Burnout

Imposter Syndrome

- Too much to know
- The more you know
 - You recognize your ignorance more
- Cocky, overconfident people exist
- Real experts in an area exist

Easy to feel like you aren't worthy of respect given

- "when they find out, my career is over"

Gatekeeping

Knowledge and expertise is a social currency

- Some max their value by putting others down
- Some improve the collective wealth
- "JS/HTML/CSS isn't a REAL language"
- "Web dev is trash programming"
- "You don't know X?"
- "You aren't cut out for programming"

Gatekeeping is about shutting out, not being right

JS Hate

Not as prevalent as it once was

- Still very present
- Always a target

Margaret Hamilton saved the Apollo 11 landing

- When "software" was considered trash
 - not even science
- Part of group that named "software engineering"

"Haters" don't improve things

Burnout

- Not talking about "need a week off"
- Traumatic mental experience
- Diminishes capability to do things
 - Can induce panic
 - Pushing through makes it worse

Caring more makes you more susceptible

Be Nice

It can be nasty out there

- Particularly for non-cis men, non-whites
 - But no one is totally safe
- Protect yourself
- Never think it is deserved
- Don't add to it
 - But still stand up for yourself
 - And for others
 - Esp if you're not marginalized