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January 12, 2018

Writing Assignment #1

My name is Rachel and I’m a Computer Science major with a minor in Information Sciences. I didn’t originally come to college as a Computer Science major, I came in as an Information Systems major. In high school I didn’t really know what I wanted to do other than something involving technology and math. I had an interest in computers and figured I’d pursue it and see if I’d like it. When I started my first programming class I realized that I enjoyed it and wanted to focus my studies more on that rather than the more business side of the major. I enjoyed the problem-solving aspects and learning how to code, so I switched majors officially my second semester and have been Comp Sci ever since.

My favorite class by far has been the Android Programming class I took last year as a Junior. I had wanted to take it for some time but never found room in my schedule to do so. When I got into a different class I didn’t enjoy as much a seat opened up and I switched into Android. I loved making the graphic interface and learning all the details about how apps worked. It was an introductory course, but it was still challenging and rewarding to complete the projects and research how it all worked.

Fall semester of my junior was a bit of a rough one, especially in my Programming Languages class. I struggled a lot with the structure of the class and the pace. While the languages were interesting, we only spent a couple weeks on any given language, not long enough for me to get a good feel for them. It was hard to complete the projects and I was constantly frustrated when I didn’t understand the specific syntax of a language enough to write a program. The worst part was putting in so much effort and realizing that I just didn’t have the time or understanding to learn the languages and write viable code with them. Needless to say, I considered that a learning experience and also my least favorite class.

I’d really like to delve more into development of an app of some sort. I got into some of the more interesting topics while in my Android Programming class, but all of the projects were laid out with specific goals in mind. Being able to design and implement it how I want and produce a working, useful app would be amazing. I have a pretty broad interest of categories I could go into, such as a mobile game or some kind of lifestyle app, but it will sort of come down to what I can design, develop, and test using what I know or can look up on my own. Android app development would still use a language I know (Java) but would also allow me to flex some of my more creative muscles when it comes to designing the UI and how the app would flow from task to task. It’s a challenge I’ve wanted to take up ever since taking the class.

Regarding my post-graduation plans, I’m planning on entering the workforce, hopefully with a company somewhere down here in Newport News. Getting a job in database design or something like it would be nice, but at this point I’m not that picky. I’m from Fredericksburg, which has very little opportunity for my field and even fewer people that I know, so I’m hoping I can get some experience with a company here where I’m familiar with the city and know people who will be local. I wouldn’t be against moving for my career or exploring my options with various companies, but I definitely want to go ahead and start working as soon as I can and gain experience. Eventually I’m hoping I can make it out of Virginia and do some traveling.