

Project 3 - Implementing a Distributed Server Network: Reflection

This project was definitely the most challenging, but for various reasons that added up to create the difficulty.

The first thing that made this project difficult was that this class was so consolidated that it was hard to retain all the information and then put certain concepts into practice. Having lectures everyday was nice, but it still presented the issue of having a lot of content to try and make use of. I will admit that this did result in leaning into the Cursor agent a little more than I would have hoped.

This first issue segways to the next challenge, which was using the Cursor agent effectively. The initial use went differently than how it was demonstrated in the lecture example, in that the agent took over and wasn't very involving with the initial process. This leads me to believe that I needed to be more specific with my prompting, in order to have a more active role in the development of. When reviewing my conversation with the agent, I can see where I did ask it to hand over the reins a little after its initial development.

The final issue that caused me the most trouble was the process of testing, in addition to getting used to the new IDE. I ended up trying to rework a lot of my code when it actually didn't need to be fixed because, and I didn't realize until lots of trial and error, the test suite was timing out after a certain point and not running the tests after the 3.0 tests. I assumed it was something wrong with my phase 4 development, so I wasted a lot of time trying to find the bug, but I actually just needed to isolate the tests. The tests all passed when I would run them isolated, but I could never get the 75/75 even though everything was correct, due to timing. I wish I had made this revelation earlier as I could have saved a lot of time, but I am glad I figured it out. I also made a silly error because I wasn't used to how Cursor saved your progress versus IntelliJ, and so I would be confused why sometimes certain tests were running when I had them commented out and why certain tests that weren't commented weren't running, which I eventually figured out.

Overall, I am glad for the experience as even though I was getting frustrated, I did get to see some important networking concepts in practice, and more importantly I realized how much more I need to work to make sure I am proficient in all these skills; especially as I seek more professional endeavors.