Suvam Kharel

CS 499 Capstone

23 March 2025

**Module Two Narrative**

The artifact I chose for this assignment was the Event Tracking App that was a project I worked on CS 360: Mobile Architecture and Programming course, which was a course I took last year. This app allows users to manage and track events, with features such as adding events, storing descriptions, viewing them in a list, and deleting events. I chose the project as I wanted to improve the overall design of the app and modernize the look of the app with better UX/UI and functionality requirements to meet the current standards.

I selected this artifact for inclusion in my ePortfolio because it demonstrates my skills in both software design and engineering. This enhancement shows my ability to:

* Design and Implement User Interface Improvements; for example, I added a background image to all screens (clock and phone), ensuring it enhances the user experience without cluttering the interface.
* Improve Button Styling; I overrode the default Material3 theme with AppCompat.Light.NoActionBar, allowing for more control over the button styles and ensuring the design aligns with a playful, and friendly aesthetic.
* Enhance Database and Data Handling; I added the event description field and updated the EventGridActivity.java, Event.java, and DatabaseHelper.java to store and display event details effectively by implementing click listener.
* Implement Animations; I added an appealing shrink and fade-out animation for event deletion, improving the over UI element.

Overall, this artifact was enhanced by addressing both functional improvements (like adding event descriptions and animations) and aesthetic improvements (such as custom buttons and background images).

In module one, I had planned to make the following changes:

1. Add background images to modernize the look of the app.

2. Improve button styles for better aesthetic.

3. Implement dark mode support.

4. Add an event description field so users can add event details as well.

5. Update database schema to include this new field.

6. Update animation effects for event deletion to add more visually appealing animations.

All the enhancements were made except for the dark mode implementation as I thought it would be unnecessary, and it would take away the colorful nature of the app. So, no significant updates are needed for my outcome-coverage plans, as these improvements align with the intended goals.

While enhancing this artifact, I learned a lot about balancing functionality and design. One major challenge I faced was dealing with the theming issue in the app. Initially, the app used the Material3 theme, which automatically applied a purple color to buttons and the top bar. This theme was difficult to customize, as it overrode the custom styles I wanted to apply to the buttons.

To address this, I decided to replace the Material3 theme with AppCompat.Light.NoActionBar, allowing me full control over the appearance of UI components. This allowed me to remove the default purple theming and the top bar, which was not needed. By doing so, I could define the styles exactly as I needed. For example, I created custom cartoon-style buttons with rounded corners, a 3D box effect, and black borders that matched the playful, comic-inspired design of the app.