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CS 499  
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**3-2 Milestone Two: Enhancements**

The artifact I selected for my ePortfolio was to continue working on the ‘Wild Oasis Animal Santuary’ website that I created in my IT270 course early this summer. The project initially was initially a front-end application without the ability to make changes. I plan on incorporating the skills I learn from my CS465 Full Stacks course to create an admin page for Wild Oasis. Instead of using the Travlr Getaways site in the guide, I plan to adapt the steps to fit my goal: creating an admin page where staff can add and edit animal residents.

This week, I set up my environment by installing Node.js, Git, MongoDB, and VS Code, and then scaffolded the Express application. I copied over the static Wild Oasis site files so that the basic “Meet the Residents” page could be displayed as the starting point on my local host browser. I then restructured the project into an MVC framework by creating controllers and routes specific to the residents’ page. I also introduced Handlebars views, which allowed me to begin separating common components such as the header, footer, and navigation for reuse across the sanctuary website. Lastly, I replaced the static resident profiles with Handlebars templates that now pull in JSON data, laying the foundation for dynamic rendering of animal information.

I chose this artifact for my ePortfolio because it highlights key full-stack skills: environment setup, MVC design, templating, and JSON data integration. These steps demonstrate both back-end and front-end development, which are central to building modern applications. By adapting the guide to Wild Oasis, the artifact shows my ability to customize and apply core development principles to a unique project. The improvement from static HTML to dynamic templates directly supports my long-term goal of building an interactive admin portal for sanctuary staff. Through this process, I met my planned outcomes by successfully establishing the baseline environment and version control practices. Additionally, I made progress toward outcomes in software design and data management, as I began structuring reusable templates and connecting them to JSON data.

One challenge I encountered was ensuring that the templates properly looped through the resident data and displayed correctly in the browser. This taught me how to troubleshoot both routing errors and template syntax issues. Ultimately, enhancing the artifact gave me hands-on experience with MVC structure, templating engines, and JSON-driven rendering which are skills that will be valuable to showcase in my professional portfolio.

All progress will be pushed to my Git Hub on a weekly basis and can be viewed following this link <https://github.com/taylorstapus/Wild-Oasis-Fullstacks>