Over the course of the project, I worked extensively on both the backend and frontend of our CBT (Cognitive Behavioral Therapy) chatbot application. One of my main responsibilities was linking the frontend and backend by creating a RESTful API. I also designed and implemented the database that stores user and conversation data. To accomplish this, I researched different database options and discussed them with the group before settling on PostgreSQL. I built the frontend using JavaScript and Node.js, created the API layer for communication between the frontend and backend, and implemented the backend in Python using Django. This full-stack integration was a critical part of our project, and I learned a lot about web architecture, database management, and cross-language integration in the process.

Through this experience, I built on the skills I identified in my initial self-assessment last fall, including backend development and collaborative software design. I developed a stronger understanding of RESTful API design and database schema development. One of the biggest obstacles I encountered was resolving system configuration issues and ensuring everyone on the team could run the application locally. Despite those challenges, the system was successfully implemented and functional by the end of the project. I also learned valuable problem-solving skills and gained confidence in taking initiative on technically complex components of a project.

As a group, we successfully developed a unique CBT chatbot that included a distinctive agenda system and a user-friendly frontend. Despite coming from different disciplinary backgrounds, we managed to coordinate our efforts well and align our goals. Scheduling meetings and working across various skill sets was a challenge, but we made it work and produced a product we were proud of. The chatbot was functional, visually polished, and demonstrated a thoughtful approach to helping users with cognitive behavioral therapy techniques.

Overall, our teamwork was mostly effective, and we learned how to collaborate across different technical domains. However, we did encounter some difficulties with one team member who repeatedly relied on ChatGPT for their tasks and did not contribute meaningfully, even after we addressed it with them. On the other hand, Ricky Roberts went above and beyond throughout the project. He consistently took on extra tasks and played a big role in refining the app to meet our vision. His dedication deserves special recognition and was a key reason for the overall success of our project.