



COMP 4513: A4 Personal Reflection

Tyler Rop

Project Development

While developing our web application BandTracker, there were many ups and downs, and it was no easy task. I am very proud and pleased with the piece of software that we created, especially when considering all of our individual time constraints, programming abilities, as well as our other educational, work, and personal commitments and constraints.

We were not able to start working on the project as early as I would have liked, but I am very satisfied with the results of our project. From the start we planned and fleshed out our goals, ideas, data sources, and knew what we wanted for BandTracker. This allowed us to define a reasonable scope for the project, make it scalable, and to think things through. I delegated various project aspects and roles to group members, which assisted us all in working on the project congruently. Planning out the entirety of our web crawler and front-end (database, sources, and functionality; all enhanced in an agile process) also helped in us getting key cornerstone parts of the project completed, upon which we could build. Knowing from the beginning that we wanted to have Artists, Genres, and Events was also very beneficial, as we always had the end goal in sight.

I also spent an extensive amount of time to learn how to work with WordPress (WP) as a content management system before we integrated our crawled data into our various custom post types in WordPress. As I researched WP I discovered more of how we should use it as a tool, it helped me to know that we should have our data and posts be put into WordPress itself so that we could reap the benefits of all of the provided out of the box features. This was a hill for myself and the rest of the group to climb, and it slowed our development and make the project seem overwhelming for a time. Once I was able to understand WP and some tolls from it such as custom post types, utilizing the wp_posts table, customizing plug-ins for our needs, having a child theme, etc., our pace of development increased exponentially and we were able to develop more easily.

Group Work

Overall, I am quite satisfied with how my entire group worked on the project. For the most part, each member of the group completed exactly what they were assigned and worked diligently at the project. There was a not a complete perfect balance of the workload (as would be preferred), but that it a reality of real world work that we understand and worked with. All members of the project provided valuable skills, insights, and abilities that assisted us in the creation of BandTracker.