William Fishburn

4-1 Journal

**Part One**

**Have you changed your career plans? If so, what prompted this change? If not, why have you remained with your original plan?**

Since beginning a Web Development apprenticeship two weeks ago, I see a clear path towards becoming a MS Power Platform developer. This past Friday, I obtained my very first Power Platform certification so I will continue in this direction. I have been educated on the ubiquity of this platform amongst Fortune 500 companies and the impact that it is making on the industry, lowering the barrier to entry for civilian developers by way of low-code/no-code application building, with customization opportunities via C# programming!

**How has your thinking about your career evolved?**

As I learn more about emerging technologies and the landscape of Computer Science, I have become more open to career opportunities not in Core software development. This causes me to stay vigilant in learning new technical stacks and not become complacent with my current skill set. For example, I have been made aware of the amount of resources invested into the current AI boom by the largest technology firms in the world; billions of dollars are being poured into AI development; therefore, my thinking has evolved in a business sense to follow where the money is going, and not just focus on my personal interests.

**Have you completed any research about your choice of career? How has this impacted your thinking? Have you thought about seeking an advanced degree or certification after earning your undergraduate degree?**

Absolutely! Since I started this program, I have been scouring the internet and my peers to ascertain which direction I should go, career-wise. I have been set on being a professional backend developer and cybersecurity professional. This has impacted my thinking by giving me a narrow-minded focus on becoming the aforementioned by way of obtaining Java and cloud-based certifications, as well as hands-on experience with backend programming. More recently I’ve learned about all of the ways Microsoft Power Platform can make development more streamlined, so I plan to obtain all of the MS Power Platform certifications during my current Web Development apprenticeship.

**Which course outcomes have you achieved so far, and which ones remain?**

Reflecting on the course objectives, I’ve made progress in code optimization, enhancing error handling, and improving documentation practices, which satisfies course outcome **CO1(**Apply appropriate software engineering methodologies to develop a complex software system). With this updated enhancement to my DSA project, I have satisfied **CO2(** Design and implement efficient algorithms to solve computing problems) as well.

Moving forward, I plan to continue refining my skills by integrating more advanced features, such as **CO3:** complex database interactions to further enrich my ePortfolio and **CO5:** Implement security measures to protect user data and maintain compliance with regulations.

**Part Two**

| **Checkpoint** | **Software Design and Engineering** | **Algorithms and Data Structures** | **Databases** |
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| Name of Artifact Used | **Artifact name:** Animal Shelter App  **Origin:** IT 145 Java | **Artifact name:** BinarySearchTree  **Origin:** CS 300 C++ | **Artifact name:**  Animal Rescue App  **Origin:** CS 340 ClientServer |
| Status of Initial Enhancement | Enhancements completed | Enhancements completed | Enhancements in progress; no current issues |
| Submission Status | Submitted with feedback from instructor | Submitted with feedback from instructor | Planned but not yet completed |
| Status of Final Enhancement | Feedback was applied, and the final polish was applied | Feedback applied, and final polish applied | Planned but not yet completed |
| Uploaded to Portfolio | Completed with polished narrative and confirmed navigation on GitHub Pages site | Completed with polished narrative and confirmed navigation on GitHub Pages site | Planned but not yet completed |
| Status of Finalized Portfolio | Ready for review in Module Seven | Ready for review in Module Seven | Planned but not yet completed |