Senior Design Self-Assessment

Jordan Myers

Part A

For this project, my individual contribution was most of the coding portion of the project. I set up the full tech stack for our project, implemented the SQLite database, created the front-end and back-end, linked the project together, developed the API calls, and developed the entire UI. I feel that I was definitely able to build on some of the skills identified in our initial assessment from last Fall, especially those skills pertaining to the back-end and database of our project. I was especially happy to build these skills out as they are the weaker point in my technical ability when it comes to web application development, and since that is the career field I will be pursuing I feel good walking away from this project having a much better understanding of how each layer of the application works and interacts with the others. Going forward, I think the only thing I would have done differently would have been to start the project just a little sooner.

To start the project, I first set up a basic React application and a basic Flask backend. I am somewhat familiar with both but I hadn’t built an application of this scale using either (or both together), so the initial steps mainly involved researching and testing. From here, I began to build out the application in a feature-by-feature pattern. Starting with small parts like building out the basic UI and setting up calls to the Finnhub API, and slowly moving towards a place where I could integrate the application with a database. From here, I began to learn how SQLite worked as I had never used it before whatsoever. I did a lot of research on how user authorization and account management worked and once I felt I had a sufficient enough understanding I created the database and implemented user accounts and account management. From here, with the project’s structure in place, I was off to the races on building out some of the bigger features like stock searching, candlestick charting, buying and selling stocks, etc. After I finished all my work on the website, Ethan took over and finished it off by adding a page where you could create simple trading algorithms.

Part B

For this project, I feel that our group was able to create a good final product; a product I genuinely feel proud of and will plan on including in a future portfolio. I think the most prominent thing I learned about group work, though, is that I am not a huge fan of it, especially when a lot of the responsibilities fall back to you. Ethan and I did have a pretty strong chain of communication, albeit more towards the end of the semester, but he was a very easy teammate to work with and I feel we did a great job collaborating on the creative direction of the product we built. I’m glad I had a partner who was able to at least show interest in the project, as I have had many other projects during my time at UC where I ended up doing all the work because my teammates wouldn’t respond to my correspondence or put in any work.

I think personally I could have tried to make a better effort (especially at an earlier point in the semester) to ensure that there was more collaboration and team effort, but as I mentioned before I was very happy with our final product. All in all, I believe this project was a great experience and a great window into what the real-world of software development will look like. I was able to walk away from this project a better developer than I came in, and I feel that my planning skills especially have become much better. One thing I can say for sure though is that I am extremely excited to get to work at a team level outside of college, because if teammates don’t pull their weight in that kind of environment the consequences are much more severe than they are in school (and because of this I won’t have to end up pulling extra weight, hopefully).