

Reflection

Evan May
CPSC 430
Due: 4/28/16

Although this class is technically Software Engineering, the most useful thing that I learned over the course of this semester was software planning. Every other Computer Science class that I've taken over the course of my time here at UMW has been about creating programs and software, so the actual final project was, in reality, just another programming assignment. The biggest and newest thing that I had to do was just researching requirements, making project and test plans, and just organizing the product that we would end up creating. This side of software development is something that isn't really touched upon in other CPSC courses, so I'm glad I got to experience it before entering the workforce.

Due to the nature of the project, the actual programming side was most influenced by the skills I learned in CPSC330 (now 240). In a way, CPSC330 was 430-lite, as many of the diagrams we learned about in 330 ended up being exactly what we used in 430. In addition, our particular project ended up being even more similar to 330, as we had to use Java. I'm somewhat disappointed that I didn't get to use more of the skills I learned in classes like Databases or Data Mining, but overall I used many of the skills I've learned during the course of my education.

The biggest roadblock during this project was just having to budget time for it when I'm also working on two other capstone classes. A lot of the time I simply didn't as much time as I'd like to work on the project, so the final product isn't as good as I know I could've made it. In addition, not being able to start on any programming until most of the documents were done sometimes felt like a detriment. Lastly, since very few groups had much of anything done by testing week, having to focus on testing seriously impacted my momentum in working on my project.

I'd like to continue getting better at working with Java, as I know it's a very desirable language to know. I do really like working on web applications, so I'd like to work on those some more, even though I didn't get to work on one for my final project. I'd also like to learn more about the data science and analytics side of computer science, which I unfortunately didn't get to utilize for this class.

This project didn't really change my post-graduation plans. Fortunately, the places I'm looking to work often desire knowledge of Java and Python, which are the two languages I used in the implementation of this project. I'm glad I got to refresh my knowledge with them before I end up finding a job.