

Internship Learning Plan

This semester during my internship at Open Systems Technologies I will be continuing to work on an internal resource management tool that was started during the summer. This project involves using WebStorm, Sourcetree, AngularJS and Mongo to create a well-designed web app that is functional for team members in a variety of different roles and with a range of technological skills. I will continue to work in an agile manner with two-week sprints and, at the end of each sprint, help facilitate meetings for a demo, sprint-planning and user story creation with the clients and our project manager (all OST employees). In addition to this internal project, I will also be working on an external support project to help meet the demands of a large client. This project will involve using Visual Studio, .NET and SQL databases to maintain the functionality of an already existing web app, while tweaking small features, most commonly being those related to mobile compatibility.

For the internal project, a lot of learning has already taken place over the summer, but with such a complex language and database structure I know for a fact that there is a ton more for me to learn. I have only grazed the surface of learning how to code in Angular and how to structure data in a non-relational manner. In particular, I am hoping to learn more about creating well defined and reusable directives, passing information from the front end of the code to the server side as cleanly and quickly as possible, and writing code on the server side of the code to handle algorithms and organize data for the front end. In addition, meetings with the “clients” will help me gain skills in relating with a customer on common goals of the end product, expressing my ideas and my work with confidence, and guiding the customer to make decisions that they can’t make without some technical and practical guidance. Why these are soft skills and not directly related to technology, they will aid me in any future career that I have dealing with people, especially if that career is consultative in nature.

To contrast, the external project involves a lot of learning for me even on what the requirements will be, but I know that it will be a lot more relaxed and random than the internal project.

Because this project is in the support stage, the amount of work needed is much more variable, depending on what the user finds and reports as issues that need to be fixed or features that need to be added or enhanced. Since the code has already been built by other employees, I will be digging through foreign classes when faced with the challenge of making a change, which means that I will learn to problem solve in order to find the source of various issues. Furthermore, I have not done much more than tutorials in working with .NET or creating a mobile compatible web page, which means that there will be a lot of learning as I go with this type of work. I am definitely excited though since everything that this project entails is highly used in a lot of web development work, and learning these skills will make me an even more skilled developer.

Overall, even though I know and have been working with some of the technologies that I will be using this semester at OST, I will continue to enhance my skillset and grow into a more well-rounded developer before my time is up. There is still an infinite amount to learn in the world of ever-changing technology, and OST is a great place to expose myself to a variety of new and emerging technologies, as well as highly skilled individuals willing to collaborate and teach.