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Austin "AJ" Hanus



Poster Arrived

📅 July 31, 2018 👤 hanusaj

Today was another productive day. We put the paper in the final format and it is right around the correct length so now we just need to edit it for the next couple days. We plan to send our first draft to Dr. Dorneich tomorrow so I'm assuming we'll have a lot of edits to make Thursday and Friday. It sounds like there won't be much work on Friday however so we'll see if we need to do a little editing after we leave.

The printed poster also came today. We did a test presentation to two of the other REU groups today and great constructive criticism. Tomorrow morning, we're going in to Dr. Dorneich's office at 8:00 am which is pretty early but I'm usually up far before then anyways. I enjoy getting up early because I feel like I get more done in the mornings. We're going to his office so we can have another practice presentation before the poster symposium which is Thursday.

Altogether, our presentation of our poster went pretty well today so I think we'll do well at the symposium.

📅 REU2018 🗨️ [Leave a reply](#)

Last Monday

📅 July 31, 2018 👤 hanusaj

Today was a relatively productive day. We completed our case study last Thursday so we've been looking at the data we recorded from that, finished the poster and sent it in, and continued to work on writing the paper. I think our poster looks awesome too, Victoria did a lot of the designing of it and did an awesome job. We also checked the length of our paper today and it was four pages without a results and conclusion section. It has to be under five so we should be good. Writing the paper will be what we do for the rest of this week so I personally think it will be pretty boring. We do have the poster seminar on Thursday though so my team plans on starting to practice our pitch Tuesday and Wednesday.

I saw that we get Jethro's for lunch on Friday which I'm super excited about! I love Jethro's BBQ. It's my favorite in Ames. My brother's are also coming home to Clear Lake this weekend so I'm excited to go home and hang out with them.

I also really enjoyed the professor that talked at Thursday's Lunch and Learn. Dr. Wei teaches a graduate level class on machine learning and I actually emailed him today to see if I would be able to take it from him this coming semester. I'm hoping I can fit in my schedule because right now, I have to change one of my other classes to fit it.

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Close to the end

📅 July 24, 2018 👤 hanusaj

Project is coming along well. Victoria is killing it on the poster. I think it looks awesome. Gabriel's backend code is coming along well too. We're starting to see how this website might actually help someone learn the best way to decrease the indoor temperature of their home. It is bringing out some bugs I wrote in my code though so my code base is getting more and more sloppy. I'm fixing some issues that I knew could've came up while I was writing before

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so if I would've spent a little more time ironing them out earlier, I wouldn't have ran into them now. However, I'm happy with what the website is turning into.

Looking forward, however, we still have a lot of writing to get done. I'm hoping to get the method done tomorrow so we only have the results and future work left. Those parts can't even be written until after we conduct our case study so they're already on hold. With a week and a half left, it's getting to be crunch time but I think our team is pulling through well.

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Uncooked potatoes

 [July 19, 2018](#)  [hanusaj](#)

The lunch today was baked potatoes which I was very excited about when going through the line. However, once I sat down and began to dig in to my deliciously topped potato, it quickly became apparent the potato was undercooked. My knife would barely cut it. I got about a quarter in and decided that was enough. Luckily, some other REUs and I decided to order in a pizza.

Other than the food, my day went alright. It does feel like I didn't get much done but I was working hard the entire day. I brought my noise cancelling headphones today so the number of distractions I encountered was an all time low. My team had another meeting with our professor and the encroaching survey is starting to feel like it will be very difficult to be ready for. We've got a lot of work to do on the website, not to mention writing out the survey questions, making our poster, and writing our conference paper. Dr. Dorneich threw us a lot of great ideas while in the meeting but they increased the amount of time until completion by quite a bit, I believe. Well, I've got a lot of work to do. Wish me luck.

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Slow progress

 [July 18, 2018](#)  [hanusaj](#)

Continued to work on getting the graphs and data visualizations to look good and work properly. Also put in a little time to writing the paper, which I plan to continue to work on it for an hour or two each day for the rest of the program. Our team has a meeting with Dr. Dorneich tomorrow and we're presenting our questions we will propose to the users in our user study. I plan on writing what we're going to present to each of the users tomorrow.

I decided to go and work outside on a personal project over my lunch break today. I'm glad I did because it got me refreshed to work inside in the VRAC space. I think I'll continue to go outside and eat or hang out when I'm able to. Hoping that I'll have a writing spurt tomorrow where I don't run into any mental blocks because that seems to happen to me a lot while I write. We shall see.

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Small Victories

 [July 17, 2018](#)  [hanusaj](#)

I've been working on this project for about a week and a half now and I feel like it's really starting to come along nicely. I had the first meeting with the professor in charge of it and he seemed happy about the progress we were making and where we planned to take our data visualizations.

Last week and the beginning of this week has been a series of small victories. Achievements like creating a graph off of dynamic data or successfully passing new data to another part of the program provide small rewards that make the long work days go by quickly and seem much shorter than eight hours. However, the feeling of short days sometimes leave me disappointed in the small amount that what achieved during that day. Overall though, I feel that our website is progressing to a point where we might actually be able to hit our deadline next Thursday.

The current goal is to create a working website with dynamic data visualizations that can be tested with 3-5 subjects. They'll be given scenarios that require them to use different parts of our website and will be encouraged to talk about their actions and give us feedback on their experience. This will give us the opportunity to record what we would do to continue our project if we had more time to work on it. That way the grad student that takes over this project will know what we believe would be the best course of action moving forward.

Although, I've learned a lot in the short amount of time I have been here, mostly about creating websites with React and D3 but these were APIs I was interested in working with. I'm happy to have decided to join and I'm interested in what the coming weeks will bring.

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First Blog

 [July 9, 2018](#)  [hanusaj](#)

Well, this is officially my first blog post. If you don't know me, my name is AJ Hanus and I'm a senior in Computer Engineering at Iowa State. I was asked to fill in on a team to help them complete their project in time. I'm excited to join the Data Viz group and we are beginning to work on coding part of the project. I was gone last Friday due to a trip I planned before I knew I would be filling in so this week will be my first full week working on the team.

The Data Viz team has began working on the development of the website. We chose to use React.js and Bootstrap. I'm the only member with experience with these frameworks and my experience is very limited. I hope that everyone will be able to catch on. I'm excited about working on the project but Gabriel is gone today so it is hard to know exactly where I should be working right now. I think the biggest issue I am having with our application right now is deciding how much of the frameworks classes I should be using and how many I should write myself.

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