

HW3 Debrief + Server-Side Features

15-113 – Monday 2/2

Talk with your neighbors, you know the drill

- Move around and talk to some different people today!
- Take turns briefly showing what you created and how
- Discuss which models you used, **any difficult parts**, anything that seemed particularly effective
- Take notes! We'll ask people to report back briefly

We'll (anonymously) share these results

- It's supposed to be HW3! <https://bit.ly/4aEs8mN>
I am ashamed of my mistakes and my self-doubt is at an all-time high



Was this a tougher task?

My bet is yes (though I could be wrong) because:

- This is much more open-ended. You had to decide what to make.
- APIs are constantly changing. AI may not know all the details.
- There may have been some steps (like getting an API key) that AI couldn't automate for us
- It may have been harder to test whether everything works

Next step: Server-side functionality

We're moving toward webapps, which often have a frontend and a backend

- The frontend would be like the HTML/CSS/Javascript on your website. This code is sent to the user's browser, and the browser runs it.
- The backend consists of code on a server that the frontend communicates with. That code is hidden, can't be easily tampered with, and can (but does not have to) be more complex.

Some examples:

- Chatbots on the 15-113 website
- Backends for banking websites
- Databases (like the CMU course catalog)
- Search engines, Google Maps, Uber and Lyft, etc
- The AI behind ChatGPT and Claude and Gemini etc
- Almost anything you can log into

HW4

Implement a simple backend and frontend

- Focus on some sort of interesting functionality
- Don't worry about polishing the user experience or frontend design too much; just focus on getting the interaction working well. See 15-113 chatbots for an example.
- Suggestion: Dream big, and then narrow the scope for HW4
- You may (but do not need to) build on HW3 to make HW4. After this, we'll begin Project 2, which may (but does not need to) build on HW3 and HW4.
- **We'll expect thoughtful design and polish on Project 2.**

In groups, spend some time ideating

Come up with some ideas for what you (or someone else) might want to try out for HW4 and/or Project 2! Think broadly. Drop as many suggestions as you can into this google doc! (Feel free to add a +1 to other peoples' ideas too.)

<https://bit.ly/4rGNxBD>



If time: Start reading this article



This article on metacognition and learning with AI will be assigned reading for either next lecture or next week, depending on how much we discuss today.

<https://bit.ly/4tkll81>