Possibilities of Programming

Signing up for I101 was a no-brainer for me as a direct admit to the School of Informatics and Computing. Although I started the course with a basic understanding of what the difference between informatics and computer science was, I continue to learn the difference in the details between the two fields. I have declared informatics as my major, but the class has sparked an interest in computer science and I have been considering a minor in the field. During my last two years of high school I took programming and advanced programing while designing a website for the Newspaper. Although I was exposed to code in the programming class I didn’t truly understand what I was doing, why certain code was written, or why it varies and works with other code. I was slightly familiar with HTML and CSS when I started at IU, but after being in INFO I-101 I now understand why HTML, CSS, and Javascript work together to create a website and I can now write in each coding language. Although I’m not fluent yet, I know that the major in informatics will prepare me well for coding as well as implementing technology with my chosen cognate.

I was looking forward to taking a class in my major during my first semester as a freshman. I was expecting the class to give me a basic understanding of the informatics major and it really solidified my decision to be an informatics major. As I attended more and more lectures and labs I realized that I was learning how to write code in lab and implement the code in careers during lecture. I have looked into multiple options for my cognate and I have even considered minors. Although I haven’t completely made up my decision yet, I know I-101 is helping me make that decision by exposing me to the different possibilities, including human computer interaction and security, I’m considering both for cognates. Now that we are entering the last nine weeks of the semester I look forward to learning new coding languages as well as learning more about the other career possibilities.

There have been many factors that have contributed to me choosing informatics as a major and INFO I-101 has given me an insight to what is possible with a major in informatics. Writing the code in labs has impacted me the most because I learned that coding can be interesting since you can see your results immediately and although small mistakes can hinder
the results, the outcome is great. The realization that something you imagine and design in code can come to life is interesting and makes me think about the impact it could potentially have. The moment that impacted me the most was after the first lab check where we had to look at a developed web page and recreate the code in the notepad application without testing the code. It made me look at what I have learned and gave me encouragement that I can be a programmer if I wanted to and that I am capable of writing the code for a website. Although I have had some experience with code before attending IU, the class has expanded my knowledge of code and has already taught me so much about how the different languages work together to create something that people interact with on a daily basis.

The interest I have for technology and how it can change the world in a positive way is what motivated me to major in informatics. With interests in multiple areas of study it makes it difficult to decide on one for a cognate. I have spent most of my time considering security or human computer interaction. Both of these are viable options and I think the security lecture has brought what computer security really is into my focus (Security Lecture). While researching majors I stumbled upon a computer forensics masters program and I looked into it, although I hadn’t started my bachelor’s degree at the time. Computer forensics is the application of investigation and analysis techniques to analyse a computer or piece of technology and the information found would have to be strong enough to hold up well in the court of law. This subject is extremely interesting to me and I would love to find a way to work in some classes like those that would be found in that major while at Indiana University. Computer forensics would allow me to be analytical and use investigation techniques while still working with computers and having the knowledge of security would help like knowing how to crack someone’s firewall and know how security systems work when investigating a piece of technology for a case that is going to court.

While I was in high school I enjoyed biology and I think working with nanotechnology to create projects like Google’s smart lens would be something intriguing to work on (King). Although nanotechnology is a field I would love to learn more about, security is also a field that would be interesting and is also in high demand. With all the attacks on businesses and governments people are starting to become concerned with security and privacy within the workplace as well as in their homes. Security would be a great subject to have knowledge on when looking for a job in the technology field because it is a useful skill that can be used in any company. Human computer interaction is also a topic that I am looking into because I love design and looking at the ways humans interact with technology and altering the device or
program to better suite people. Working to positively influence a community or help facilitate learning is something I would love to be a part of and I think human computer interaction is a great way to do that. Both human computer interaction and security would be valuable knowledge and would help in any job after college. The skills you develop in informatics allows you to go down multiple paths when leaving college and gives you basic technical skills from computer science that will be useful if entering a design job with human computer interaction or within cybersecurity.

Since I was young I was interested in how things worked and was fascinated with computers. Now that I’m learning how they use code and how to write that code it is a rewarding challenge. My confidence in my coding and my ability to write code from my own ideas have increased dramatically since I started the INFO I-101 course. The variety of lectures allows me to see the different ways code and technology are used throughout the world and then going to labs afterwards I am able to write the code and learn how the technology is created and how it is implemented in the areas that are discussed in lecture. I previously believed I wouldn’t be good at or enjoy coding and I-101 has surprisingly changed my thoughts concerning my ability and enjoyment for coding. Since my confidence in coding has increased I will be able to work on projects and challenges that I otherwise would think would be impossible. The informatics program is a way for me to take something that I find interesting and applying my love for technology to the field to help develop new or modify old technology to get a specific job or goal accomplished. Computer science on the other hand is the development of technology and although you use some of it in informatics I am able to apply informatics to multiple areas of study.

As the second half of the semester begins I hope to learn more coding languages but also learn more about human computer interaction and security topics. As I decide what subject to be my minor and cognate I want to learn more about human computer interaction and security and possibly try applications of each subject. Although not everyone has not chosen their cognate yet, it would be interesting to learn how informatics works with the other fields and how you would incorporate the topic. I would also like to do some research into computer forensics during second semester to decide whether I can create a custom cognate or minor to learn about the field of study. During the second semester it would be helpful to hear from more people involved in informatics certain specialization areas. The INFO I-101 course has been helpful with teaching how technology is involved with our everyday lives as well as the coding within technology. Although I had some understanding of HTML and CSS before beginning
classes at IU, I now understand how the codes work together to create a website and how they impact lives. The lectures give you an insight into what subjects incorporate informatics and what you can accomplish in the field. Lecture checks help you connect what you learn during lecture with what is currently or has previously happened in the world. Both lecture and lab have given information and skills that are useful in any field of study and with all the information already given in the first nine weeks I can't wait to see what is provided the second half.

Works Cited