

Rate My Resident

Alex Johnson

Saint Francis Hospital in Hartford, Connecticut works with and trains medical residents from University of Connecticut's Medical School in 6-week rotations. Saint Francis Hospital is currently having a difficult time getting feedback for the residents from the faculty members with whom they interacted due to busy doctor schedules. My proposal to solve this problem was to develop website that allows the site director to request evaluations from the faculty members, and allows the faculty members to complete these evaluations on their own time. I used a web-development framework called Ruby on Rails to accomplish this over the past two semesters. The current product is a secure and intuitive website that allows the site director at Saint Francis Hospital to submit evaluation requests, which causes secure links to an evaluation page to be emailed to the corresponding faculty members. Security was an extremely important part of the website from day one, as the information in these evaluations is protected under both FERPA and HIPAA. In the process of building in the security that was needed to protect both the residents who are being evaluated, and the medical information that may be referenced in the evaluations, I learned how difficult it is to identify all potential vulnerabilities in a software product and to remedy those vulnerabilities by adding the necessary security techniques. Since there is no such thing as "perfectly secure" software, Saint Francis Hospital's decision to move from their current system of obtaining resident feedback to the website that I have been developing will require more attention to security and privacy, but will overall improve the educational experience of the residents that the hospital works with.