Personal Development Report

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1. **Introduction**

This Personal Development Report (PDR) is a reflective document created to track my personal and academic growth throughout this course. Unlike a portfolio, this report focuses not on what I did but rather why I did it and how it contributed to my learning objectives. By analyzing my actions, feedback, and insights, I aim to gain a better understanding of my development, strengths, and areas for improvement.

1. **Learning Objectives**

For each learning objective (LO3, LO6, LO7), I’ve provided my understanding of the objective, an evaluation of my progress, and a reflection on the learning process. This section also includes feedback I received from peers and instructors, as well as my thoughts on it.

**Learning Objective 3: Professional Standard**

Description  
This objective emphasizes working professionally on projects, either independently or collaboratively. It involves using appropriate methodologies (e.g., agile), engaging stakeholders through feedback, and making ethical, culturally aware, and sustainable decisions.

Process  
I followed an iterative approach to projects, actively incorporating stakeholder feedback to refine decisions. I implemented agile practices like sprint reviews and retrospectives to stay aligned with professional standards.

Progress  
I improved my ability to work in a team and manage stakeholder expectations. However, I need to refine my deployment process by adding a staging environment and hosting the backend in Docker, as highlighted in recent feedback.

Reflection  
Stakeholder involvement has enhanced my decision-making, but I need to be more proactive in addressing ethical and sustainability considerations. Time constraints occasionally impacted the depth of my planning, an area I intend to improve.

Evidence

* *Sprint 1 Review Feedback (25-09-2024)*: Positive feedback on project planning.

**Learning Objective 6: Analyzing Business Processes**

Description  
This objective focuses on understanding how software integrates into a company’s workflow, identifying stakeholders, and mapping processes, including possible variations or decision points.

Process  
I analyzed workflows by creating and refining diagrams (C1-C4) and engaged stakeholders to clarify business requirements. I prioritized non-functional requirements such as performance and scalability in my designs.

Progress  
I gained proficiency in creating comprehensive design documents, including C4 diagrams and mapping component interactions. Feedback highlighted the need for better visualization of different layers and zoom levels.

Reflection  
Understanding workflows helped me align software functionality with business needs. However, I need to ensure consistent validation of backend inputs to avoid issues in practical usage.

**Learning Objective 7: Personal Leadership**

Description  
This objective is about identifying strengths and weaknesses, setting personal development goals, and taking steps to achieve them. It also involves aligning actions with personal values and seeking feedback for continuous improvement.

Process  
I used feedback from sprint reviews and coach discussions to assess my progress. I focused on improving communication, time management, and technical skills like implementing React Hook Forms.

Progress  
I made strides in communication and collaboration but struggled with time management during high-pressure periods. My application has become more functional, but further improvements are needed to enhance its usability and design.

Reflection  
Proactively seeking feedback has been beneficial, but I need to better structure my workflow to prevent last-minute stress. Additionally, aligning my project milestones with personal values ensures a sense of purpose.

Evidence

* *Semester Coach Feedback (23-09-2024)*: Encouraged speaking up and improving time management.

1. **Retrospect**

Overall, I feel that this course has been challenging but rewarding. It pushed me out of my comfort zone and made me look at things in new ways. My role in the course was to stay engaged, work with my classmates, and keep up with the projects and assignments. What I would try to do better is trying to manage my time better, especially on big projects, so I don’t feel as rushed near deadlines. This experience has given me a clearer understanding of my strengths, like being able to adapt quickly, and has also shown me areas where I need to improve, like time management

* **Strengths:** Adaptability, collaboration, and feedback integration.
* **Improvements:** Time management and task prioritization.
* **Lessons Learned:** Importance of communication, collaboration, and proactive learning.

1. **Self-Reflection**

Reflecting on the semester, I am aware that certain strategies worked well, while others could have been improved.

**What Worked Well?**

In my approach, collaborating with my classmates and actively seeking feedback from them proved to be beneficial because it helped me gain different perspectives and improve my work. Regularly reviewing my progress and adjusting my approach also kept me on track and focused.

**What Could Be Improved?**

I encountered challenges with managing my time effectively, especially when multiple deadlines were approaching. In the future, I could create a more structured schedule that breaks down tasks into smaller, manageable parts, which would help me stay organized and reduce last-minute stress.

**What Didn’t Work?**

Some methods I tried, such as relying solely on online resources for research, were not effective due to the lack of depth and context in the information I gathered. I realized that having discussions with peers and instructors was crucial for a deeper understanding.

**Future Improvements**

To improve my outcomes next time, I will focus on developing a clearer timeline for assignments, setting specific milestones, and making sure to reach out for help when I encounter difficulties.

**Learning Points / Lessons Learned**

In conclusion, my key learning points from this semester include the importance of effective communication, the value of collaboration, and the need for time management. I’ve learned that asking for feedback not only enhances my work but also strengthens my relationships with classmates. This course has taught me to be more proactive in my learning and to seek help when needed, rather than trying to figure everything out on my own. These insights will guide me as I progress in my studies and future career, helping me to become a more effective team member and a more organized individual.