Laboratories Reflective Journal

Bledea Mihaela Alexandra

931

TEAM:

Bledea Mihaela Alexandra – 931/2

Bretan Cezar Alexandru – 931/2

**Description**: What happened? When and where? Who else was involved? What did you do? What did other people do? What was the outcome?

**Answer:**

**Individual task:**

During this course, we had a series of laboratories that we had to attend. Those took place every Tuesday at 4 pm in even weeks, from the 7th of March to the 23rd of May. The laboratories were held in a dedicated room at the FSEGA building and they were held by our course teacher. At these laboratories my whole semi-group of faculty attended.

Through each of these laboratories, I was assigned tasks, one that I had to finish in class and one that I was required to finish at home. I was paired with one of my colleagues, because this was the main requirement at the first laboratory, and we kept that pair until the last one. I was always given enough explanation regarding the task and if I had questions, the teacher would always answer them. This made me feel safe and more calm, and experiencing these emotions impacted the efficiency with which I did all the tasks. I and my colleague were always splitting the tasks in class since we didn’t have much time. From this experience, I recall that I’ve learned how to use my time efficiently. I’ve also learned many interesting testing methods and how to use them properly. I also remember that, at the last laboratory, we had only an in-class assignment and that didn’t imply any more working on teams. I found that assignment interesting and I can say that it helped me, because had to talk about our bachelor’s thesis and the ways we would test it. By thinking so deeply then, I managed to find some use cases worth testing.

For the tasks we had to do at home, we always made them together, using a remote platform, namely Discord. I remember how we split tasks such that each of us did work in an equal manner. I was as active as my colleague was. Now when I think back about what we did together, I can say that I was good at debugging the code. I found something new about me and namely, it would be that I love to solve problems. I realized I still have to work on that part and learn to look first into the simplest parts of the code, where the problem could appear and only afterward go into complicated parts.

The outcome I had, along with my colleague was not necessarily impressive, because we were used to working together, but I can say that this situation strengthen our friendship and learned me to listen closely to what other people say, but to also say my own opinion. Brainstorming was our best friend and we managed to finish all the tasks on time.

**Group task:**

During the course, we participated in a series of in-class laboratories that took place every Tuesday at 4 pm in even weeks, from the 7th of March to the 23rd of May. These laboratories were held in a dedicated room at the FSEGA building. Looking back on those experiences, we realize they provided valuable opportunities for learning and collaboration.

Each laboratory session began with our teacher assigning us a new task to complete both in class and at home. In the first twenty minutes, our teacher would explain the tasks, walk us through the necessary software, and provide helpful examples to ensure we understood how to set up the testing environments. These explanations were crucial in guiding us toward the successful completion of the tasks.

To tackle the assignments, we were initially grouped into pairs, and we continued to work together in those pairs for the remaining laboratories. As a team, we would first discuss the tasks and collectively understand the requirements. However, due to the limited time allocated for each laboratory, we often found it necessary to divide the tasks between us to complete them promptly. Nevertheless, we always helped each other, whenever one of us encountered difficulties or had concerns.

At the end of each laboratory session, during the last five minutes, we would come together as a group to share and present our work to one another. It was an opportunity to consolidate our efforts and see the collective progress we had made. Working closely with a partner allowed us to leverage each other's strengths.

In reflecting on our experience with the take-home assignments, we realize that finding a suitable time interval that accommodated both of our schedules was a significant challenge. Given the remote nature of the assignments, we opted to have virtual meetings using Discord as our communication platform. This allowed us to connect and collaborate despite being physically apart.

One notable aspect of these assignments was the constraint that they could only be performed on a single machine. As a result, we developed a system where one of us would share our screen while the other provided suggestions, corrections, and ideas. To ensure a fair and equitable distribution of work, we would frequently swap roles for each assignment. This allowed both of us to actively participate in the coding process and contribute equally to the project.

Engaging in this collaborative process brought its own set of benefits and challenges. On one hand, it fostered a sense of teamwork and mutual support. Sharing our screens and working together in real time enabled us to leverage each other's strengths, brainstorm ideas, and address issues collaboratively. It also provided an opportunity for continuous learning and skill development as we shared our knowledge and expertise.

**Feelings**: What were you feeling during the situation? What do you think other people were feeling about the situation? How do you feel about the situation now?

**Answer:**

Individual task:

When I think back to the laboratories, both done in class and at home, I remember I felt intrigued by the tasks, and I’ve also felt a mix of excitement and anxiety. I believe new tasks provoke some fear because sometimes I think I will not be able to finish them all. But this attitude always motivated me to manage my time efficiently and find a proper structure to do the tasks. I believe my colleague also felt similar emotions to me, but I also know, he’s much calmer and not as stressed as I am, so he might have felt calmer and more peaceful. Now, when I realized how badly I used to stress, I feel a bit sorry for myself from the past, but I am glad I had the chance to do all this work.

Group task:

Reflecting on the situation, we both agreed that we had a sort of mixed feelings, we were curious and excited but we also had a bit of fear inside of us. Our other colleagues, we believe experienced feelings closer to ours, because our semi-group was always focused on doing tasks properly and giving our best.

Looking back on the situation now, we feel a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction. Despite the challenges we faced, we were able to successfully collaborate and complete the assignments.

**Evaluation**: What went well? What didn’t go well? What positive or negative things did you (or other people) contribute to the situation?

**Answer:**

Individual task:

Looking back at what I did back there, I recall encountering problems, as well as successful situations. I remember I had problems working with Docker, to can use Jenkins and Test Link. I managed to fix it with my colleague while working remotely. But I remember that one laboratory, he didn’t attend and I was all alone to present the assignment and Docker decided to don’t work anymore. I remember I was feeling so nervous and anxious, I was afraid I will not be able to present our assignments completely. I tried to stay calm and I told my teacher what problem I had. After multiple tries, she told me it was fine, to keep working, she graded us and if I manage not to redo all the work until the end of the laboratory, either is fine. Now when I think about it, I could have been calmer, because, in the end, I recall I managed to do this thing right and redo all the work we did at home. The most important lesson I’ve learned from this situation is to stay calm and focused, ask for help, and believe in yourself, in the end, all things go as they should.

Group task:

During solving the assignments, we encountered ups and downs, but in the end, we managed to find a way to do things well. The communication using the Discord platform went well and was beneficial since it helped us to collaborate and work simultaneously, despite being physically apart. This facilitated clear and efficient communication, enabling us to discuss tasks, share ideas and provide feedback in real time. Working in pairs also went well for us. We were both open to opinions and suggestions and active to help each other when in need. We encountered some difficulties while solving the assignments, like managing to configure the software tools required for automating testing. But we managed to finish all the assignments on time and present them in the class. We both brought positive things to the work, coming up with good ideas or ways of solving the bugs.

**Analysis**: Why did (or didn’t) things go well? What theories or research can help you better understand the situation?

**Answer:**

Individual task:

When I analyze our actions, I remark that when things didn’t go well, it was because we used to rush things, but when we were calmer and paid more attention to the details, and more importantly, when we were patient, we managed to bring everything to a required level. To better understand the situation, I believe a deeper knowledge of testing theories like Black Box, White Box, Integration, and Exploratory, would be very useful. Sometimes we encountered problems because we didn’t have enough knowledge.

Group task:

Reflecting on the laboratory activities, we realize that things went well, firstly because both knew each other and worked together before, allowing us to work in a time-efficient manner. Secondly, we both wanted to fulfill each task and we both gave our best to do so. To better understand what happened during the laboratories, a deeper knowledge of Black Box Testing, White Box Testing, Integration Testing, Exploratory Testing, and Automation might be useful.

**Conclusions**: What did you learn from this situation? If this situation happened again, what would you do differently?

**Answer:**

Individual task:

From all these situations, I’ve learned to stay calm in stressful moments and to remember to breathe when I feel like I’m falling apart. I’ve learned to make myself understood, to learn how to express myself in different ways, and most importantly, I’ve learned to listen to others’ ideas and work with them with no problems. If this situation happened again, I believe I would perhaps pay more attention to the explanations we got at the beginning of each laboratory, but rather than that, I wouldn’t change anything because all the ups and down improved my knowledge and helped me evolve.

Group task:

From this situation, as we had to collaborate for each assignment we learned to listen to other people’s ideas and opinions, to be open-minded, and try different things. Since we had limited time to solve all the assignments, we learned to be time-efficient. Being a pair of two, we learned to split the work equally, such that none of us would have to work more. We learned to support each other and we developed a closer friendship. If this situation happened again, we wouldn’t do anything differently. We enjoyed working this way.

**Action Plan**: What skills do you need to develop to handle a situation like this better? How will you develop the skills you need?

**Answer:**

Individual task:

Analyzing what I did, handling situations like this requires teamwork skills and also coding skills, especially for writing tests. I believe improving my communication would be essential. I also believe increasing my knowledge about testing mechanisms and especially the theories that lie behind them would be important. I could develop these skills by keeping working in teams and reading more about these theories and applying them often in practice.

Group task:

Reflecting on the situation and on the fact that we had to work in pairs and use various testing mechanisms to solve the assignments, we believe we could focus our attention on developing more useful team skills like improving our communication or finding other tools that would be beneficial to work remotely. We believe it would be helpful to learn and use the testing techniques employed during the assignments, more in practice. This would point out as being valuable for us to better understand them. To further develop these skills, continuing to work in pairs and applying these theories in another practical project, we believe would be enough.