Laboratories Reflective Journal

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

**Answer:**

**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:**

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:**

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:**

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:**

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:**

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.