AMUKELANI NHLENGETHWA

ST10446794

MR: WELLCOME

XHAW5112

WORK INTERGRATED LEARNING

**GROUP MEMBER**

NAME: LWAZI THUTO ZONDO

ST NUMBER: ST10447204

**Introduction**

Work Integrated Learning (WIL) is a valuable opportunity to bridge academic knowledge with real-world applications. It allows students to gain hands-on experience, improve practical skills, and grasp the dynamics of professional environments. The purpose of my WIL experience was to develop a website and collaborate with my team member, Lwazi, who focused on creating a mobile application. Together, we aimed to empower users through digital tools, taking into account and appying the technical knowledge we learned with guidance from our module manual from Rosebank College.

**Skills Learnt**

**Industry-Specific Practices**

* I developed a website called "Empowering the Nation." This task involved using Figma for the initial design and Visual Studio for coding. I used HTML, CSS, and JavaScript to design user-friendly web pages that effectively communicate the intended message. I also learned how to manage digital content and ensure it aligns with project objectives and requirements based on the rubric.

**Interpersonal Communication Skills**

* Effective teamwork was essential during the WIL. Lwazi and I had productive brainstorming sessions and feedback exchanges to refine our respective projects. These interactions improved my ability to share ideas clearly and consider diverse perspectives .However it is highly important to highlight that not every session was enjoyed because we were under pressure and trying to combine ideas.

**Management Skills**

* Time management was crucial for meeting deadlines. We faced challenges, particularly with setting up the emulator using JavaScript in Android Studio, which required swift problem-solving and crisis management to ensure that we remained on track.

**Role in the Team**

My role in the team was to design and develop the website, while Lwazi focused on the mobile application using Android Studio. We had a strong working relationship, sharing insights and helping each other overcome technical challenges. I contributed to the success of our group by maintaining a positive attitude, providing constructive feedback on Lwazi’s work, and integrating our projects into a cohesive digital product.

* **Leadership and Instruction**: I took initiative in coordinating our meetings and setting timelines.
* **Contribution to Team Success**: I ensured that our website aligned with the overall project’s goals and provided technical support to Lwazi when needed especially when it cam to creating the code for the app as it was challenging.
* **Group Dynamics**: We established a collaborative environment where each of us valued the other’s opinions and suggestions.
* **Conflict Handling**: We navigated differences in coding approaches smoothly, respecting each other’s expertise.

**Research, Technology, and the Presentation of Information**

During the WIL, I engaged in several research activities:

* I needed to find suitable web development tools and resources to create a functional and visually appealing website. This involved researching online tutorials and official documentation.
* I utilized forums and developer communities, as well as ChatGPT, to troubleshoot JavaScript-related issues.
* The information was presented visually through the website interface, ensuring a user-friendly experience.

**Technologies Used**:

* **Figma** for UI/UX design and prototyping.
* **Visual Studio** for web development.
* **Android Studio** for mobile application development.
* **ChatGPT** for research, coding advice, and troubleshooting assistance.
* **Module Manual from Rosebank College** for academic guidance and project requirements.

**Presentation**: Towards the end of our WIL experience, Lwazi and I conducted a presentation at school. I presented the website, demonstrating its functionality and design aspects, while Lwazi presented the mobile application. Our presentation showcased how both platforms aligned to achieve the project’s objectives.

**Personal Strengths (Strong Points) and Weaknesses (Areas to Do Better In)**

**Strengths**

* I excelled at designing the website in Figma before the actual coding phase. This allowed me to create a clear visual structure and plan the user interface effectively, ensuring that the website design was user-friendly and met our project goals.
* I demonstrated good communication skills, which facilitated a productive partnership with my team member.
* Adaptability, quickly learning how to navigate technical challenges with the emulator.

**Weaknesses**

* I faced challenges with the HTML structure, particularly in implementing effective navigation for better user accessibility. My struggle with creating a smooth and intuitive navigation system initially impacted the website's usability.
* My documentation skills needed improvement, as I initially overlooked detailed documentation of some code segments.

**Improvement Plan**: I plan to improve my HTML skills, especially focusing on navigation and creating a seamless user experience. In addition, I will regularly note down technical steps and challenges during future projects to enhance my documentation process.

**Stakeholder Relationship**

I had a constructive relationship with my WIL Coordinator, who provided guidance and support throughout the project. The relationship worked well in terms of setting clear objectives and timelines. However, communication could have been more consistent during the emulator setup phase, which would have reduced troubleshooting time.

**Enhancement**: Regular check-ins with the Coordinator and seeking advice earlier in the project would have strengthened the relationship.

**Impact**

I believe my contributions had a positive impact on our team and the project outcome. By developing a user-focused website, I contributed to the overall vision of empowering users through digital tools. My work facilitated Lwazi’s mobile application by providing a consistent look and feel across platforms.

* **Beneficiaries**: Users of the "Empowering the Nation" platform, who now have access to a well-designed and informative website, as well as Lwazi’s mobile application.
* **Positive Impact**: I introduced structured coding practices that improved the project’s technical integrity.

**Conclusion**

My WIL experience was highly enriching, combining technical learning with interpersonal collaboration. Despite facing challenges, particularly with the HTML navigation structure, I gained valuable skills and insights into the professional world of web development. Working with Lwazi was a highlight, as our shared determination and respect for each other’s expertise led to a successful project. This experience has not only enhanced my technical capabilities but also strengthened my teamwork and communication skills, preparing me for future outcomes in the field.



