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FACC 400 Lifelong Learning Assignment

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“Knowledge is exploding, so you need to commit yourself to a plan for lifelong learning.” — Businessman Don Tapscott

More than ever, the tech industry is exploding, with new platforms, tools and applications coming out faster than you can learn them. My education in engineering has prepared me well for a career in which lifelong learning is not only desired, it is necessary in order to excel. However, after graduation I plan to bolster these skills through goal-setting and reading as well as by attending interesting courses and lectures.

As an aspiring software engineer, I have witnessed firsthand the sheer volume of software systems available to use. It is nearly impossible to keep up, especially when every company can choose to use a different platform. For this reason, knowing how to learn becomes an incredibly important skill along with a willingness to learn. An engineer needs to be able to adapt and learn on the job as well as stay updated in order to remain competitive. With so many innovative products arising, lifelong learning is essential for remaining a critical member of a team to be able to contribute to a team in meaningful ways and bring fresh ideas to the table. Engineering is all about innovation but in the tech industry, this can only happen by continuing to learn and adapt.

While I have learnt many technical skills throughout my engineering degree, the ones that will most help in becoming a lifelong learner are the soft skills I have acquired these past 3 years. Through the many projects I have completed and the less than vague requirements and instructions, I have learnt how to persevere when faced with difficulties and unknowns and use all available resources to solve any problem that comes my way. These are necessary skills for a lifelong learner who must always be willing to learn and be challenged.

Learning becomes especially difficult after graduation when studying material is not required to pass a class or achieve an A. However, in order to continue to grow and maintain an interesting and challenge career, learning must continue. To ensure that I continue to learn throughout my life, I will always set goals to aspire to. Whether these be career-related or personal, having a list of goals will ensure that I strive to grow while providing a sense of accomplishment when completed. Furthermore, I think it is important to look for a company that values the lifelong learning of its employees. For example, last summer I worked at Ericsson where they offered online courses in various subjects ranging from technical skills, such as data science, to personal aspects such as leading a balanced life. If that isn’t possible, there are online courses available through websites such as Coursera and seminars offered from universities.

To conclude, lifelong learning is essentially to remaining a pertinent member of the tech industry due to its ever changing nature. While my studies at McGill have prepared me well, I will continue to learn through goal-setting as well as attending seminars offered by an employer, a university or online platform.

discipline

Tapscott, Don. “The Seven Imperatives for Highly Successful Business Revolutionaries.” *Huffington Post*, 23 July. 2012, https://www.huffpost.com/entry/seven-imperatives-successful-business\_b\_1694422.

keep up and learn all of these at once especially with every company using a different one. Instead, it is important to learn how to learn. Lifelong learning is an important skill in the tech industry because it shows employers that you can learn on the job, regardless of your previous experience. My engineering studies have given me the basics of different software systems such as Continuous Integration using Travis CI, build systems and model-based programming. A lifelong learner can then take these basic intuitions and learn any software system thrown their way. Furthermore, engineering design projects at school are typically given with little to no supervision or definitive unambiguous requirements. In a nutshell, this has forced me to learn how to learn. More specifically, it has taught me how to persevere when faced with difficulties and unknowns and use all available resources.