

SELFT EVALUATION

POE – OPSC7312



October 24, 2016

VARSITY COLLEGE

DURBAN NORTH

# Reflection

Android development this semester was a lot more fun and challenging than last semester which focused mainly on the basic areas of Android. This semester required a lot more hard work and understanding into the complex structures of Android. Understanding and working with these structures was very rewarding and fun.

At the start of the semester, I was exposed to threads which was an important part in Android. Creating an Async task and/or a service or the normal thread is what Android offers. The main reason for having a thread is to take off heavy processing from the main UI thread and create another thread. This can allow the user to continue with other operations while other processes are happening in the background. At first I never saw the value of using these structures, however, my perception of threads soon changed. The first assignment was broken into 2 questions. The first questions required the app to get the location of the device and the second questions required a google map. In order to pull the location, an Async task was needed. Retrieving the user’s location is a heavy process that needs to be done on another thread. Through this assignment I saw the value and importance of having an Async task. With this assignment I was also exposed to reverse geocoding coordinates and the many ways to retrieve a devices location/address. I explored the Google API using fused location and the google API client as well as the Android API using Location manager together with request location updates. In addition to this, as part of extra functionality for the assignment, I covered a concept that was not part of the Syllabus which challenged me greatly. This concept is known as Geofencing which is to set up a radius around a certain location. You have the ability to keep track if the device has entered or exited that location. Dealing with this concept challenged me greatly however it was a rewarding experience.

In Assignment 2, I had the opportunity to develop an android app for a real client (NGO- LIV). I had to develop an interactive game to attract people to the organization and to donate. With this game, I was exposed to drawing shapes on a canvas and randomly generating it onto the screen. I also gained knowledge about how to use the surface view which is better to use in a game environment. It works more efficiently especially when shapes or drawings are repeatedly shown onto the screen. I really enjoyed developing this application.

In both assignments I dealt with an interesting area of android. In first semester we explored how to have a database that moves with the app. However, there are instances where you want other people to access the data stored in the database. Having a SQLite database does not help with this problem. In this case you need to host the database online. I did this by creating a MYSQL database that connects to the android application using a php script on Awards space. Through this I was also exposed to reading JSON objects. Exploring this scenario and successfully coding it has been the highlight of this semester. This process I not only dealing with android but other external areas/languages such as: PHP, JSON and SQL.

In conclusion, this semester of android I have dealt with many challenging topics that required time and a great amount of research to understand and implement. Through this I have learnt a great deal about android which has increased my confidence in android development. I hope to continue with android in the future and create apps that can be used by real clients.

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| **Criteria** | **1**  **You’ve learned something – but you’re not proving it!** | **2**  **You’re on the right track but you can do better!** | **3**  **Bravo! You’ve done exceptionally well!** | **Score** |
| Reflection | * Reflection shows no thoughtfulness; * Reflection has no details; * Reflection is incomplete. | * Reflection shows little thoughtfulness; * Reflection has few details or examples; * Most parts of the reflection are incomplete. | * Reflection shows thorough thoughtfulness * Reflection has several supporting details and examples; * All parts of the reflection are complete and done well. | 3 |
| Demonstration of learning | * Reflection does not move beyond description of the event/ experience. | * The reflection demonstrates student’s attempt to analyze the event/ experience but fails to demonstrate depth of analysis. | * Clearly explains what was learned.      * Reflection is beyond simple description of event/ experience to an analysis of how it contributed to learning and understanding | 3 |
| Organization of report  Clarity of report | * Ideas are disorganized   Language is unclear and confusing throughout. | * Ideas are organized but paragraphs are not well constructed. * Frequent lapses in clarity. | * Ideas are very well organized with well-constructed paragraphs. * The language is clear and expressive. * The reader can create a mental picture of the situation being described. * Explanation of concepts makes sense to an uninformed reader. | 2 |
| Inclusion of lecturer’s feedback on Assignments 1 -2(1 mark) | | | | 1 |
| **TOTAL 9 /10** | | | | |