

Reflective Report

COMP120 - Reflective Report

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1 Introduction

I have identified three key weaknesses that need addressing: understanding peers' code, time management and communication.

2 Reading and Understanding Peers' Code

Due to a lack of experience in reading and writing code, I am experiencing difficulty comprehending peers' code. I immediately noticed that this causes difficulty in peer review sessions, as I find that I struggle to construct useful comments.

If this skill remains undeveloped for the forthcoming collaborative projects, I will struggle to review my peers' contributions and understand the code I am contributing to. This is equally important if I am going to collaborate with others professionally as an independent games developer.

To develop this skill, I will ensure that I read peers' code at least once each week and predict its outcome before running the program. After two months, I will review how frequently these predictions were accurate.

3 Time Management

I have struggled with time management due to my perfectionistic nature combined with an extended period out of education. The most significant issue for me is spending more time than necessary perfecting and adding unnecessary features to a single project whilst neglecting others.

It is crucial that I develop this skill in preparation for the increased workload as the course progresses. Similarly, it is important that I recognise when something is complete, in order to focus on other tasks. If I become an independent games developer, this will allow me to actually release games rather than endlessly working on them. After using Trello with my Kivy project, I have noticed that it helps with this aspect. I think that this is because it breaks the project down and allows me to see when I have completed each task. It also ensures that I focus on the tasks in the sprint plan, rather than adding unnecessary features.

I will address this issue by creating a flexible study timetable at the beginning of each week. I will also set up a Trello board for each project and utilise sprint planning. In two months, I will assess whether this allowed me to comfortably meet assignment deadlines. I will also measure how often I deviated from the sprint plan by comparing my commit logs with the Trello board.

4 Communication

I have significant difficulties with communication, primarily due to anxiety. Specifically, my reluctance to ask for feedback, help and clarification has greatly impacted my studies. Initially, I avoided asking for help and attempted to solve every problem myself. This resulted in high stress levels and reduced

productivity close to the deadline.

I find that I waste time pondering uncertainties or being stuck. Consequently, my struggles in this area adversely affect the effectiveness of my time management. Therefore, addressing this issue is crucial if I am to keep up as the workload increases. Additionally, if I become an independent games developer, I must learn to communicate effectively and be willing to ask for help in order to learn new tools and participate in the open source community.

In future, I will create a list of questions to ask each week in addition to creating a pull request if I am unsure about anything. Over the following two months, I will review the frequency that I actively seek help rather than letting uncertainties linger.

5 Conclusion

Practicing the proposed SMART actions will enable me to develop these three skills that are essential for successful study.