CPD

COMP 230

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Introduction

In this paper I will discuss five key skills, taken from my continuing professional development report that I need to improve on to succeed on my course. Also by using SMART targets as a guide, I will first state the skill, and why it is important to increase my ability, not just for my course, but in terms of my future career as well. Secondly how I plan to improve that skill and how long I expect it to take me to reach my goals.

Re-Learn C++ Basics

I need to re-fresh my knowledge of C++ basics such as creating classes for different game objects and then being able to call them in the main. I also need to better my understanding of functions within classes, know how to create them, and what the function should contain to make it work.

I have purchased the book 'Beginning C++ Through Game Programming' by Michael Dawson which has chapters on function classes and how to use them in the main. Using this as a guide while writing my C++ coding assignments will help me learn how to use functions and classes properly.

This goal will be easily achievable as I have to include functions and classes in my assignments.

This skill will be very useful for my future career and success on my course. It will help increase my results in C++ coding assignments and raise the chances of getting a programming job in a AAA studio after graduation.

I can start this straight away for my graphics and simulation assignment that is due in soon. I can also do this in my future AI assignments during the next term. I should have mastered basic function and class creation by the end of my second year.

Improve sentence structure

I have found in my essays I loose marks for poor sentence structure most of all from having overly long sentences, which can have an unnecessary negative effect on communication

and over all score of the written assignment. Therefore I need to learn to break what i want to say into better sized sentences , neither too long or short.

There is a free website (http://www.expresso-app.org/) that I can use to assess my sentences and it will point out the ones that are badly sized, which I can then restructure.

This goal is very achievable as it does not require anything other than access to a free website.

This will be good be a good skill to master as at the moment I am loosing points in my written assignments from something that can be easily fixed. Improving this will raise my results easily aiding my success on the course.

I can complete this task straight away, starting with this assignment and continue to do so with every written assignment in the future.

Proceedual Skills

My criticism after making a presentation is that I don't go into enough detail about the subject, until the after presentation questions. This shows I know the information but don't talk about it, loosing unnecessary marks. I need to learn what details I should include in presentations to better convey the topic or idea. I find that in written assignments I go into more detail, so before I start to plan the presentation I will write it out like a written assignment. First by writing everything about the topic or idea, then dividing that information into a number of headings. I can then create the presentation using the headings as page titles and bullet point the information including pictures where appropriate.

This target is very achievable as it requires only an extra bit of planning time.

It will increase my public speaking skills if I get better at this which will help me academically by improving my grade and I think raise my confidence professionally which will be important especially at interviews.

I will do this for my next presentation and if it proves effective I will continue to do this for every presentation or until I know what information should be included automatically.

Decrease Stress when Coding

When I am programming something that I cannot get to work for a long time I become really stressed and frustrated. This has a negative effect on my programming skills and making the chances of me finding a result to the problem less likely. My answer to this problem is when I start feeling frustrated or have spent too much time on a problem is to take myself away from it. I can try working on other assignments or just do a different activity altogether. In the past I have found the answer to a problem while trying to sleep.

This goal is easily achievable as long as I remember to remove myself when I start getting stressed.

This will help me academically by making me more productive (not wasting a large amount of time on one problem), improve my health by reducing stress and helping my future career by enjoying programming a bit more.

I have started doing this already while completing my graphics and simulation assignment and have managed to finish my CPD report while trying to think of a way to get the position of a game object.

Spread time between assignments effectively

In the previous semester I spent more time programming my group game than any other assignments even though most of the other assignments were worth more percentage of the modules. The better I score on the higher percentage assignments, the higher I score on the module overall, so I need to start prioritising higher percentage assignments over others. I can achieve this by first finding out the percentage an assignment is worth when I first receive it and if it is worth a lot then prioritise working on it in my free time above others.

This will be quite difficult to achieve as I usually prioritise the group game over everything to please my group but it will have to be done to achieve good grades.

This will help improve my grades and help me succeed academically as well. it will also encourage me professionally to teach me to prioritise more important jobs first.

I will start doing this in the next semester with my new modules and assignments. I can also keep a list to remind me which assignment takes highest priority and update it when I receive new assignments or submit one for grading.

Conclusion

Most of the above targets I can start doing immediately with me assignments bu the task I can see I will have the most trouble with is the prioritisation of assignments.

If I stick to my targets I will get better marks in assignments and increase my skills in programming greatly furthering my professional success in the future.