Assignment 3 Reflection and E-Portfolio

My E-Portfolio is available via: https://gesine-2000.github.io/gesine-linn.github.io/index.html

Reflection: A Group Experience in Security and Risk Management

The Security and Risk Management module covered key topics, including qualitative vs. quantitative risk assessments, threat modelling, and the design of disaster recovery (DR) strategies. We also reviewed traditional models like STRIDE and DREAD, as well as hybrid approaches, and discussed important security standards.

In this reflection I would like to especially focus on the first assignment, which was a group project.

What Happened?

In Assignment 1 of the module, our team was tasked with conducting a risk assessment for the digitalisation process of a made-up company, named Pampered Pets. The project required us to evaluate the risks of digital transformation versus maintaining the status quo. Although our group comprised five members, only three were actively engaged. The other two contributed minimally, missing deadlines and not aligning with our project standards.

Within the active participants, there was a major disagreement regarding the approach to the assignment. While I advocated for following the assignment guidelines closely and using a specific risk model, another team member pushed for a multimodel approach, arguing it would provide a broader perspective. Despite my concerns, the group ultimately agreed to this strategy. The result, however, was a lower grade due to the approach not sufficiently addressing the assignment's requirements.

So What?

This situation highlighted several key lessons about group work, leadership, and conflict resolution, all of which are crucial in my professional career as a project manager and aspiring IT consultant. One core issue was our failure to align the

project scope with the assignment's criteria, a common challenge in project management. The risk of trying to satisfy multiple perspectives without critical evaluation of the assignment's requirements is that the final output may lack clarity, depth and criticality.

West (2020) supports the idea that decision-making in teams can be hindered by groupthink or failure to resolve conflicts constructively. Instead of deferring to a multimodel approach due to pressure or lack of time, I should have insisted on revisiting the assignment's requirements to ensure that our chosen method would meet them.

Furthermore, the passive participation of two team members complicated the group dynamic. The lack of accountability and involvement from all team members often leads to resentment and a heavier workload for engaged members, which ultimately caused frustration (West, 2020). According to West (2020) teams perform best in a positive and open-minded working environment. In my future projects, I will need to establish clearer roles and responsibilities from the start and actively engage non-participating members early on. This will create a better working environment for all team members. At the same time, I disagree with West (2020) that the building of the "dream team" was not possible for us as we failed to create "inter-team relationships" (West, 2020), this could have also hindered the engagement of the two passive team members. Next time, before working on the task itself I would focus on creating a connection between all team members and establishing clearer roles.

Now What?

Despite these challenges, I reflected on the importance of emotional intelligence, as discussed by Goleman (1998), particularly the need for self-regulation and empathy when working in teams. The situation required me to manage my frustration and focus on contributing meaningfully to the project. I partly correspond with Goleman's approach to show feelings to effectively work together as a team, but I do not think that being strict or unemphatic would have been appropriate in our team situation as we are all at the same hierarchy level. Therefore, I prioritised team cohesion over insisting on my preferred methodology, despite being not entirely comfortable with the final approach.

Further reflecting on this experience, I have identified several strategies I can apply in future group projects:

The first lesson is in managing team dynamics, I will implement better communication and conflict-resolution strategies. Ensuring that all voices are heard while maintaining focus on the goal. Conflict should be addressed early to prevent it from derailing the project. I also plan to utilise more structured project management techniques, such as setting earlier deadlines to allow time for revisions or course corrections (Goleman, 1998).

Further, I recognise the importance of taking leadership roles in group projects. Had I taken a stronger leadership stance, I might have been able to steer the project in a more focused direction. In professional settings, project managers must be able to balance collaboration with decision-making authority, ensuring that the team remains aligned with client or business objectives (Turner, 2019).

This experience contributes to my action plan by highlighting both strengths and areas for improvement in my transition to IT consulting. The misalignment within our team when selecting a risk model, illustrated the complexities of risk management in real-world scenarios. The failure to align our team on one approach reflected the challenge of managing diverse opinions, a critical skill for IT consulting where consensus-building is vital for project success (Gunti, 2024).

This experience also emphasised that possessing certifications like ITIL or AWS is not enough; applying them effectively in group settings is crucial. Improved communication and leadership skills will be essential for ensuring project cohesion in my future consulting work. Moving forward, I will apply more structured conflict resolution methods and promote clearer decision-making to avoid similar issues, as outlined by Kerzner (2017).
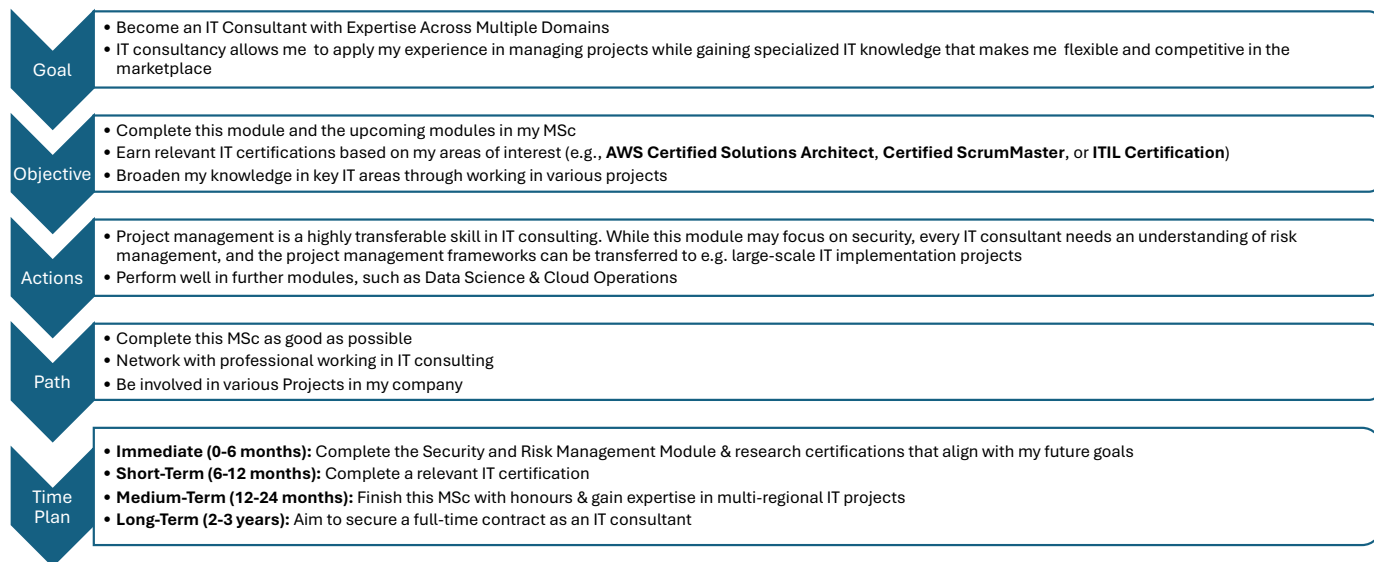
Figure 1: Action Plan (Hamberger, 2024)

In conclusion, by critically evaluating team decisions and managing group dynamics more effectively, I will be better prepared to handle similar challenges in my future career as an IT consultant. This approach will help me deliver outcomes that not only meet stakeholder expectations but also maintain the integrity of the team.

Conclusion

Overall, this project highlighted both the challenges and opportunities of working in a team. Despite the group dynamics and disagreements, I gained valuable insights into risk management and improved my collaboration skills. This reflection process has deepened my understanding of the security and risk management concepts, which I will apply in both my academic and professional life.

Wordcount (I was only able to integrate the graphic as a picture because the format crashed in Word; however, I counted the words and included them in the total word count): 985 + 211 = **1196**

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