COMM-6019-F2023

Discretionary Assignment 2

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Advanced Professional Communication

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* Can you tell me a little about yourself?

I'm Gihan Shamike Liyanage, a dedicated IT professional with a strong educational background and extensive experience in software engineering and project management. I am particularly passionate about Information Security, which has driven my career choices and led me to pursue advanced studies in the field. My journey started at MillenniumIT, where I grew from a Trainee Software Engineer to a Senior Software Engineer. Later, at N-able Pvt (Ltd), I took on the role of Team Lead, overseeing complex projects and ensuring seamless collaboration within my team. What excites me most is the opportunity to leverage my technical expertise and leadership skills to contribute meaningfully to your organization. I am driven by innovation and problem-solving, and I am confident that my unique blend of skills will add significant value to your team and department.

* How would you describe yourself in one word and, more importantly, why?

I would describe myself as "driven." This word encapsulates my determination to achieve my goals, both professionally and personally. I find motivation in overcoming challenges and continuously improving my skills. In the workplace, this drive pushes me to excel in my tasks and contribute meaningfully to the projects I undertake. It also fuels my passion for learning and adapting to new technologies, ensuring that I stay at the forefront of my field. I believe this drive not only benefits my own growth but also positively impacts the teams I work with and the projects I engage in.

* Can you name three strengths and weaknesses about yourself?

I excel in analytical thinking, breaking down complex issues for effective solutions in my role as a software engineer. As a Team Lead at N-able Pvt (Ltd), my strong leadership fosters collaborative environments, ensuring successful project deliveries. I thrive in the fast-paced IT industry by swiftly adapting to new technologies and leveraging changes for innovative solutions.

When it comes to weaknesses, I acknowledge my tendency to overcommit due to eagerness, but I've learned to set realistic goals and enhance my time management skills for a balanced work-life approach. Additionally, my hands-on nature sometimes hampers effective delegation, but I'm actively working on empowering team members based on their strengths. While I strive for perfection, I've adapted by setting realistic standards, understanding that excellence doesn't always mean absolute perfection. This mindset shift allows me to balance high-quality work with efficiency and progress.

* What kind of boss and coworkers have you had the most and least success with, and why?

I thrive in environments characterized by clear communication, transparency in expectations, and an open, collaborative atmosphere. I am most successful with leaders who are approachable, encourage team input, and value diverse opinions. My colleagues who are committed to teamwork, mutual support, and leveraging each other's strengths bring out my best. Working with individuals who share a dedication to achieving shared objectives in a respectful, collaborative manner motivates me to contribute effectively.

I have faced challenges working with individuals lacking empathy and openness to diverse perspectives, leading to communication breakdowns. Moreover, environments with unclear direction or micromanagement hinder my productivity. My best work occurs with autonomy to contribute my ideas, coupled with appropriate guidance and support. Collaboration is hindered when colleagues or superiors resist new ideas or diverse approaches.

* Can you give us a reason someone may not like working with you?

One reason someone might find it challenging to work with me is my commitment to maintaining high standards. I have a strong dedication to the quality of my work, and I tend to hold both myself and my colleagues to these standards. I believe in pushing for excellence in every task, which can sometimes come across as demanding. While I always aim to be respectful and supportive, I understand that my drive for perfection might be perceived as demanding by some. However, I genuinely value collaboration and open communication. I actively encourage feedback, and I'm willing to adjust my approach if it helps foster a more positive working relationship.