



ACCRA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

The University of the Future

**ADVANCED SCHOOL OF SYSTEMS AND DATA STRUCTURE (ASSDAS)
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

**INTERNSHIP REPORT ON SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT AT GHANA
ARMED FORCES (GAF)**

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Acknowledgement

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to several individuals and entities who played important roles in the successful completion of my internship at Ghana Armed Forces.

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Endorsement

I hereby declare that this submission is entirely my own work, in my own words, and that all sources used in researching it are fully acknowledged and all quotations properly identified. The

industrial training and internship report was based on software development at Ghana Armed Forces and has been carried out by YEBOAH SOLOMON OPOKU under the supervision of SUB LIEUTENANT APENKWAH ATO KWANTWI. Both the student and supervisor certify that the work documented in this report is the output based on the training conducted on partial fulfilment of the requirement of the Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Information Technology.

YEBOAH SOLOMON OPOKU

Signature: 

Date: Friday 27th October, 2023.

Summary

According to Accra Institute of Technology, one of the graduation requirements is that students must successfully complete an industrial training program, commonly referred to as an Internship or Professional training program, at any organization related to their field of study. This internship is treated as a separate course unit and carries credit upon successful completion. However, the value of the talent can be questioned if it is not refined. A three-month internship at a recognized company, business, or government agency should serve to augment the knowledge gained in the university lecture halls, libraries, and textbook. This practical experience allows student to acquire practical and analytical skills, gain a deeper understanding of their core subjects, and develop a clear awareness of how their course work applies to real-world jobs in their industry.

This report primarily focuses on software development using the PHP framework (Laravel), specifically the work I completed during my internship with the Ghana Armed Forces. The organization's development department effectively manages all IT related aspects of the business, including database administration, hardware support, network security, mapping, configuration, as well as website and web application development and expansion, with a specific emphasis on Laravel-based software development.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

The journey from theory to practice is a crucial transmission in any student's academic and professional development which makes it mandatory for every student in Accra Institute of Technology. It is during this transformative period that students have the opportunity to bridge the gap between classroom knowledge and real-world application. My internship experience at Ghana Armed Forces provided me with an invaluable opportunity to immerse myself in the dynamics of software development, applying the skills and concepts I have acquired throughout my academic journey.

This internship report captures the core of my experience during my tenure at the Ghana Armed Forces, encompassing the diverse range of experiences, challenges and achievement that have influenced my professional development. It stands as evidence to the importance of hands-on-exposure and experimental learning, illuminating the essential role internship play in fostering the skills and potential of emerging professionals.

Throughout the following pages, I will walk you through a detailed account of my internship journey. From an overview of the organization and its mission to a deep dive into the specific projects I undertook, this report aims to provide a comprehensive insight into the work I contributed to and the lessons I have learnt. Furthermore, it will highlight the skills I honed, the challenges I encountered, and the solutions I devised, all of which have contributed to my personal and professional development.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE INTERNSHIP

The objectives of an internship can vary depending on the specific goals of the intern, the organization offering the internship, and the industry or field of study. However, here are some common objectives of an internship:

1. **Hands-on Experience:** Gain practical, real-world experience in a specific industry or field related to your academic or career interests.
2. **Skill Development:** Develop and refine a range of skills, both technical and soft skills, that are relevant to your chosen career path.
3. **Networking:** Build a professional network by connecting with colleagues, mentors, and industry professionals, which can be valuable for future job opportunities.
4. **Understanding Workplace Dynamics:** Gain insights into structure, culture, and dynamics of a professional workplace, helping you adapt more smoothly to future employment.
5. **Resume Enhancement:** Enhance your resume with relevant work experience and accomplishments that can make you a more attractive candidate for future jobs.
6. **Exploration and Clarification:** Use the internship as an opportunity to explore your career interest and confirm whether your chosen field aligns with your expectations.
7. **Project Contributions:** Contribute meaningfully to the organization by working on projects, tasks, or assignments that have a positive impact.
8. **Mentorship and Learning:** Learn from experienced professionals and mentors who can provide guidance and advice on your career path.
9. **Professional Development:** Develop a strong work ethic, professionalism, time management, and communication skills in a professional setting.

- 10. Feedback and Evaluation:** Receive feedback on your performance and areas for improvement, helping you grow and develop as a professional.
- 11. Cultural Exposure:** Understand and appreciate the cultural aspects of the workplace, especially diverse or international settings.
- 12. Building Confidence:** Gain confidence in your abilities and decision-making as you navigate real-world challenges.

CHAPTER 2

ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND

The Ghana Armed Forces (GAF) is the military organization responsible for the defense and security of the Republic of Ghana. It comprises the Army, Navy, and Air Force, and it plays a crucial role in safeguarding the country's sovereignty, maintaining internal peace, and contributing to international peacekeeping efforts. Here's an overview of the background, history, and mission of the Ghana Armed Forces:

INTRODUCTION:

The Ghana Armed Forces, like many other national military forces, has its roots in the colonial period when Ghana was under the British rule. After gaining independent from Britain in 1957, Ghana establish its own military institutions to ensure its security and project its sovereignty. Today,

the Ghana Armed Forces is a professional and well-organized military with clear mission to serve and protect the nation.

HISTORY:

Colonial Period: During British colonial rule, Ghana (then called Gold Coast) contributed soldiers to various British military units. These units played roles in both World War I and World War II.

Post-Independent: After gaining independence in 1957, Ghana establish its own armed forces. The first significant military action took place in the early 1960s when Ghana deployed troops to support the United Nations Operations in the Congo (ONUC).

1970s and 1980s: Ghana was involved in various peacekeeping missions, particularly in Africa. It also played a role in the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) during the Liberian and Sierra Leonean civil wars.

Modern Era: The Ghana Armed Forces continues to contribute troops to various international peacekeeping missions under the United Nations and the African Union. These deployments have earned Ghana a reputation as a responsible and reliable partner in conflict resolution and peacekeeping efforts.

MISSION:

The mission of the Ghana Armed Forces can be summarized as follows:

- I. National Defense:** The primary mission of Ghana Armed Forces is to defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ghana. This involves maintaining a state of readiness to respond to external threats and aggression.
- II. Internal Security:** The Ghana Armed Forces assists civil authorities in maintaining internal peace and security when called upon. This includes responding to civil unrest, natural disasters, and other emergencies.
- III. Peacekeeping:** Ghana is known for its active participation in international peacekeeping missions. The Ghana Armed Forces contributes troops and expertise to various peacekeeping operations around the world, helping to maintain global peace and security.
- IV. Support to National Development:** The Ghana Armed Forces also plays a role in national development, including engineering and infrastructure projects that benefits the country.

- V. **Training and Professional Development:** Training and developing the skills of military personnel to meet the evolving challenges of the modern world is a key aspect of the Ghana Armed Forces' mission.

CHAPTER 3

SKILLS LEARNT

During an internship, individuals have the opportunity to acquire and develop a wide range of skills that are valuable both in their specific field of study and in their overall professional development. The skills learnt during an internship can vary depending on the nature of the work and the industry, but here are some skills that I acquired at Ghana Armed Forces:

Technical Skills: These skills are specific to the intern's field of study or the task they are assigned during the internship. In my case, the experience was with software development, technical skills might include programming languages, software tools, and database management.

Communication and Presentation Skills: Interns improve their written and verbal communication skills by interacting with colleagues, supervisors, clients, and other stakeholders. Effective communication is crucial in any professional setting. During my stay at the Ghana Armed Forces, communication is on daily basis, due to frequent updates on progress level with respect to the task assigned to me. Once in every week, we do presentations to a Board of Directors for them to give their opinions on the achieved tasks.

Problem-Solving Skills and Adaptability: Interns often encounter real-world challenges and problem-solving opportunities during their internship. This helps them develop critical thinking and analytical skills. The ability to adapt to changing circumstances and handle unexpected situations is a valuable skill learnt through internships. It promotes flexibility and resilience.

Teamwork and Collaboration: Working as part of a team is a common aspect of internship. Interns learn how to collaborate with colleagues, share responsibilities, and contribute to collective goals. An example in my case, was a collaboration of colleagues at work to develop a Job Card System.

Time Management: Meeting deadlines and managing time efficiently become essential skills during an internship. As an intern, I learnt to prioritize tasks and allocate their time effectively.

Research Skills and Attention to Details: Interns often conduct research as part of their duties, whether it's market research, data analysis, or gathering information for a project. This hones their research skills. Paying close attention to detail is critical in many professions. Internships teach intern to be meticulous and thorough in their work.

Leadership Skills: Some interns may have opportunities to take on leadership roles or manage projects. This helps them develop leadership, decision-making, and delegation skills.

Networking Skills: Building professional relationships and networking is a skill that interns can develop by interacting with colleagues, mentors, and industry professionals.

Conflict Resolution: Dealing with workplace conflict and finding constructive solutions is an important skill that can be learned through internships.

Ethical and Professional Conduct: Internships reinforce the importance of ethical behavior, professionalism, and adhering to workplace standards and codes of conduct.

INTERNSHIP CHALLENGES

Indeed, challenges are an inevitable part of life. Throughout our personal and professional journeys, we encounter various obstacles, difficulties, and setbacks that test our resilience, problem-solving abilities, and determination. These include;

1. **Limited Experience:** Many interns are just starting their professional journey, which means they may lack the practical experience needed for certain tasks and responsibilities. This can be challenging when attempting to contribute effectively.
2. **High Expectation:** Some organizations have high expectations of interns, treating them as regular employees with significant responsibilities. Balancing these expectations with limited experience can be daunting.

3. **Unclear Expectations:** Sometimes, interns may not receive clear instructions or expectations for their tasks, leading to confusion and potential errors.
4. **Communication Issues:** Effective communication with colleagues, supervisors, or clients can be a challenge, especially if there are language barriers or differences in communication styles.
5. **Technical Challenges:** Interns in technical roles may face challenges related to software or equipment they are not familiar with. Technical issues can slow down progress.
6. **Feedback and Evaluation:** Receiving constructive feedback and evaluation can be difficult, especially if the organization does not have a structured feedback system in place.
7. **Conflict Resolution:** Interns may encounter conflicts with colleagues or supervisors, and knowing how to address and resolve these conflicts professionally can be challenging.
8. **Transportation and Logistics:** Depending on the location of the internship, commuting and logistics can be challenging, leading to stress and fatigue.

CHAPTER 4

COURSE RELATED TO THE JOB RESPONSIBILITIES

As a software developer, my job responsibilities typically involve designing, coding, testing, and maintaining software applications. Here are some courses that can be related to my job responsibilities as a software developer, especially if you're studying at the Accra Institute of Technology:

1. **Programming Fundamentals:** Mastering the fundamental principles of programming is paramount. I've been delving into languages like Java and even delving deep into the intricacies of C++ through courses like (CS103) Principles of Programming with C++.
2. **Web Development:** My fascination with web development led me to explore courses like (IT204) Web Authoring and Content Management. Here, I've gained proficiency in HTML, CSS and JavaScript for front-end development, and I'm now diving into back-end technologies like PHP, Node.js and Python.

3. **Database Management:** Data is the lifeblood of software, and I've been honing my skills in database design, MySQL, MongoDB databases via courses like (CS311 and CS312) Database Systems.
4. **Software Engineering:** The intricacies of software development methodologies, project management, and software architecture have become clearer to me through courses like (IT302) IT Project Planning and Management and (IT306) Research Methodology. These insights are crucial for effective project planning and management.
5. **Algorithms and Data Structures:** To optimize code and tackle complex challenges with fitness, I've delved deep into the world of algorithms and data structures through (CS203) Data Structures and Algorithm.
6. **Object-Oriented Programming (OOP):** Crafting well-structured and maintainable code has been a focus, and I've gained profound insights into OOP principles and design patterns, particularly through (CS104) Object Oriented Programming with Java.
7. **Version Control:** My collaborative software development skills have been honed as I've learned about version control systems like Git, which are indispensable for team-based projects.
8. **Testing and Quality Assurance:** I've explored software testing methodologies and tools to ensure that my code meets the highest standards of reliability and quality. This knowledge is indispensable and has been acquired through (IT302) IT Projects Planning and Management.
9. **Mobile App Development:** My curiosity led me into the realm of mobile app development. I've embraced courses in iOS development (Swift) and Android development (Java or Kotlin) to expand my horizons.
10. **Cybersecurity:** Protecting software applications from threats and vulnerabilities has become a top priority. Courses like (IT304) Intro to Information and Network Security have equipped me with the knowledge needed in this critical domain.
11. **User Interface (UI) and User Experience (UX) Design:** I've ventured into UI/UX design principles through (IT302) IT Project Planning and Management to create software interfaces that are not only functional but also user-friendly and visually captivating.
12. **Agile and Scrum:** Agile methodologies like Scrum and Kanban, which are prevalent in software development, have been an area of focus in courses like (IT302) IT Project Planning and Management, enabling me to excel in interactive project management.

13. **Software Development Tools:** I've made sure to familiarize myself with Integrated Development Environments (IDEs), code editors, and other indispensable software development tools.
14. **Soft Skills:** Realizing that success as a software developer extends beyond coding, I've embraced courses in communication, teamwork, problem-solving, and time management. These skills, fostered through courses like (ENGL101 and ENGL102) Composition, Writing and Communication Skills, (UFS101) University Foundation Studies, (NT201) Group Dynamics and Communications and (CDES) Career Development and Employability Skills, are invaluable.
15. **Ethical and Legal Aspects:** Acknowledging the ethical and legal considerations within software development, including copyright and intellectual property, is crucial. I've explored these dimensions through (IT205) IT Professional Ethics.

CHAPTER 5

CONTRIBUTIONS

Throughout my internship as a software developer specializing in Laravel, it's highly probable that I played a pivotal role in advancing both the organization's project and its overall objectives. These includes;

Mentoring: As someone who has steadily grown in experience and expertise, I've found opportunities to become a mentor and offer valuable guidance to junior developers and interns. Sharing insights from my journey in software development has been immensely fulfilling.

Security Measures: I've taken proactive steps to implement robust security measures and adhere to best practices, including rigorous input validation and authentication. These efforts have fortified our applications against the ever-present threats of security vulnerabilities.

Database Management: My contributions to the realm of database design, optimization, and data management have left a lasting mark. By ensuring data is stored, retrieved and manipulated efficiently, I've played a pivotal role in the seamless functioning of our applications.

Performance Optimization: The quest for perfection has led me to become a specialist in identifying performance bottlenecks and crafting solutions to optimize code and database queries. This dedication has significantly enhanced the performance and scalability of our applications.

Collaboration: My knack for collaboration shines through as I've worked harmoniously with cross-functional teams, encompassing designers, front-end developers, and project managers. This collaborative spirit has been the cornerstone of our collective success in delivering projects on time and with excellence.

Continuous Learning: My unrelenting pursuit of knowledge has been a driving force. Staying ahead of the curve with Laravel and industry trends has empowered me to introduce fresh ideas and innovative solutions, continually enriching our team's capabilities.

Project Enhancement: Contributing to the evolution of existing projects has been a passion. Whether it's introducing novel features, refining user interfaces, or orchestrating performance enhancements, I've played an integral role in breathing new life into our projects.

Troubleshooting: My proficiency in troubleshooting has been instrumental in preserving the smooth operation of our applications. Identifying and swiftly resolving technical issues has been a responsibility I've undertaken with diligence and determination.

Code Reviews: Engaging in code reviews has been a dual learning experience. Not only have I provided constructive feedback on code quality, maintainability, and adherence to

coding standards, but I've also eagerly absorbed insights from more experienced developers, continuously elevating my coding prowess.

Testing: My approach to testing has been a cornerstone of our development process. Crafting and executing comprehensive test cases, meticulously documenting issues, and ensuring the unwavering reliability and stability of our applications have been integral facets of my role in the teams.

EXPERIENCES

During my stay as an intern at the Ghana Armed Forces, there were numerous skills that I acquired through mingling with other staff and colleagues at the workplace, which are highlighted below:

1. **Hands-on Lavavel Development:** I had the opportunity to work on projects with Laravel, a popular PHP framework, allowing me to gain practical experience in building web applications, websites, or software using Laravel's features and functionalities.
2. **Project Collaboration:** I mostly collaborated with developers, designer and team members on projects, giving me exposure to the dynamics of a development team and the importance of effective communication and teamwork in software development.
3. **Database Management:** I worked with database in the context of Laravel, learning how to design and optimize database structures, perform CRUD (Create, Read, Update and Delete) operations, and manage data effectively.
4. **Problem-Solving:** As a software developer, I encountered and solved various technical challenges and issues, further enhancing my problem-solving and critical-thinking skills. Debugging, troubleshooting and finding efficient solutions became part of my daily routine.
5. **Code Optimization:** Over time, I learnt how to write efficient and optimized code, ensuring that my applications are not only functional but also performant and scalable.
6. **Security Awareness:** I gained an understanding of security best practices in web development, including protecting against common vulnerabilities like SQL injection, Cross-Site Scripting (XSS), and Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF).

7. **MVC Architecture:** Working with Laravel, I became familiar with the Model-View-Controller (MVC) architecture pattern, a fundamental concept in web application development that helps maintain code organization and separation of concerns.
8. **Testing:** I had the chance to learn about unit testing and integration testing within Laravel, ensuring the reliability and stability of my code.
9. **Client Interaction:** Due to my internship role, I had the opportunity to interact with clients or stakeholders, gaining insights into client expectations, project requirements, and effective communication skills.
10. **API Integration:** Experience with integrating third-party APIs or APIs within my Laravel applications provided me with insight into how systems can communicate with external services and applications.

OBSERVATIONS

Below elaborates on some of the observations I made during my internship as a software developer at Ghana Armed Forces;

1. **Development Processes:** I observed the development methodologies and processes used by the organization, such as Agile, Scrum, or Waterfall. This insight into development workflows can be valuable in future roles.
2. **Team Collaboration:** I also observed how effective collaboration and communication among team members contribute to project success. Understanding team dynamics is crucial in a professional setting.
3. **Project Management:** Observing how projects are managed, including planning, prioritization, and tracking progress, can provide insights into project management best practices.
4. **Technical Stack:** I noticed and observed the technologies, tools and frameworks used in the organization's tech stack, which can help me identify industry trends and emerging technologies.
5. **Codebase Structure:** Understanding the organization's codebase structure and architecture can provide insights into best practices for organizing and maintaining code.
6. **Quality Assurance:** Observing the quality assurance and testing processes, including how test cases are designed and executed, contributes to deeper understanding of software quality.

7. **Security Practices:** You may have observed how the organization prioritizes and implements security measures, such as data encryption and vulnerability assessments.
8. **User Experience (UX):** If involved in web development, I observed how user experience principles are applied in design and development to create user-friendly interfaces.
9. **Software Development Lifecycle:** I gained insights into the entire software development lifecycle, from ideation and design to development, testing, deployment and maintenance.
10. **Challenges and Solutions:** Observing challenges faced by the organization and how they were addressed or overcome can provide me with problem-solving strategies for similar situations.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, my internship as a software developer specializing in Laravel with the Ghana Armed Forces has been a transformative journey filled with valuable learning opportunities, challenges, and significant contributions. Throughout this internship, I have gained a profound understanding of software development principles and practices, and the intricacies of working in a professional environment.

I observed and actively participated in various aspects of the software development lifecycle, from coding and testing to project management and client interaction. These experiences have not only enhanced my technical skills but have also honed my ability to collaborate effectively with cross-functional teams, communicate with stakeholders, and solve complex problems.

Moreover, I've had the privilege of working alongside experience professionals who generously shared their knowledge and expertise, further enriching my learning experience. The insights gained from observing industry-standard practices, such as version control, code reviews, and agile methodologies, will undoubtedly shape my future endeavors in the field of software development.

Throughout this internship, I encountered and successfully navigated challenges, from troubleshooting technical issues to managing tight deadlines. These challenges have strengthened my problem-solving abilities, adaptability, and resilience, proving that overcoming obstacles is essential part of personal and professional growth.

As I reflect on my internship, I am grateful for the mentorship, support and trust extended to me by the Ghana Armed Forces team. I am also appreciative of the opportunities I had to make meaningful contributions to projects, whether through code development, testing or other vital tasks.

Looking ahead, I am excited to carry forward the knowledge, experiences and skills gained during this internship into my future career as a software developer. I remain committed to continuous learning, staying updated with industry trends, and contributing to innovative and impactful software solutions.

In closing, I extend my gratitude to all those who have played a part in my internship journey, from my colleagues and mentors to the organization itself. This internship has been a stepping stone in my professional development, and I eagerly anticipate the challenges and successes that lie ahead in my software development career.

CHAPTER 6

Recommendations for students

1. **Show Initiative:** Take the initiative to ask questions, seek out opportunities to learn, and volunteer for tasks or projects. Proactive interns are often the most valuable.
2. **Be Punctual and Reliable:** Arrive on time and meet deadlines consistently. Punctuality and reliability are highly valued in a professional setting.
3. **Communicate Effectively:** Keep your supervision and team informed about your progress and any challenges you encounter. Effective communication is key to a successful internship.
4. **Seek Feedback:** Don't be afraid to ask for feedback on your work. Use it as an opportunity to improve and grow in your role.

5. **Learn from Others:** Take advantage of the knowledge and experience of your colleagues and mentors. Ask for advice and insights, and be open to learning from those around you.
6. **Adaptability:** Be open to change and willing to adapt to different task or projects as needed. Flexibility is a valuable trait in the workplace.
7. **Professionalism:** Dress appropriately for the workplace, maintain a positive attitude, and treat everyone with respect and professionalism.
8. **Set Goals:** Have clear goals for what you want to achieve during your internship. Discuss these goals with your supervisor to ensure you're aligned with company's expectations.
9. **Networking:** Building relationship with colleagues and professionals in your field. Networking can open up future opportunities.
10. **Documentation:** Keep a record of the tasks you work on, the skills you develop, and the accomplishments you achieve during your internship. This documentation can be valuable for future job searches and resume-building.
11. **Take Notes:** During meetings or training sessions, take notes to remember important information and instructions.
12. **Ask for Guidance:** If you're unsure about something, don't hesitate to ask for guidance or clarification. It's better to seek help than to make costly mistakes.
13. **Show Enthusiasm:** Demonstrate enthusiasm for the work and the organization. A positive attitude is contagious and can make you a valuable team member.
14. **Reflect and Learn:** At the end of the internship, take time to reflect on what you've learned and how you've grown. Use this reflection to set goals for your future career.
15. **Express Gratitude:** Thank your supervisor, colleagues, and anyone who has helped you during your internship. A simple thank-you note can go a long way.

Recommendations for Accra Institute of Technology

1. **Enhance Academic Programs:** Continuously review and update the academic programs to ensure they are aligned with industry trends and global standards. Introduce new courses or specializations as needed to meet emerging demands in technology and other fields.
2. **Faculty Development:** Invest in faculty development programs to ensure that educators remain up-to-date with the latest teaching methods and technologies. Encourage faculty members to engage in research and publish their findings.

3. **Infrastructure and Facilities:** Improve and expand the campus infrastructure, including classrooms, laboratories, libraries, and recreational facilities, to create a conducive learning environment for students.
4. **Student Support Services:** Strengthen student support services, such as academic advising, career counseling, and mental health resources, to help students succeed academically and emotionally.
5. **Research Opportunities:** Promote research initiatives and collaborations with industries and other academic institutions. Encourage students and faculty to engage in research projects that can contribute to knowledge and innovation.
6. **Diversity and Inclusion:** Foster a diverse and inclusive campus environment that welcomes students from various backgrounds and cultures. Implement programs to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion on campus.
7. **Industry Partnerships:** Develop partnerships with local and international industries to facilitate internships, co-op programs, and job placements for students. These partnerships can also provide real-world experience and enhance curriculum relevance.
8. **Entrepreneurship Programs:** Establish entrepreneurship programs and incubators to encourage students to develop their own startups and innovative projects. Provide resources and mentorship to support student entrepreneurship.
9. **Global Exposure:** Encourage international exchange programs and study-abroad opportunities for students to gain a global perspective and cross-cultural experiences.
10. **Online Learning:** Offer online and hybrid courses to provide flexibility for students, especially those who may have other commitments. Invest in technology infrastructure to support online learning.

CHAPTER 7

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