

ICT10001 Problem Solving with ICT

Assignment 4: Reflective journal template

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1488 words

Introduction

(50-100 words)

Baby Hut is a rental chain store which provides a variety of baby equipment. The brand is created by three entrepreneurs who are Peter Hamill, James George, Angel White. As the leader to expand their brand as well as increase the profit of the company. They had a contract with our team group number 2 to identify their problem in their company, and then set up an alternative solution, also creating an online store that customers can access and review in order to buy and rent products. The team has 4 members: Nguyen Tran Mai Phuong who is the leader of the team with the responsible of group's progress and make sure the task is going correctly, Do Duy Long with the role of monitor evaluator who evaluate all the team's decision, Nguyen Huynh Quoc Bao is the team worker. Finally, I am the last member who is a specialist. My role is helping members to set up and giving them advice when working on this project.

Project management concepts and team dynamics (1250 words)

Reflect on and discuss:

- How the project management concepts covered in Week 3 were used by your team.
- What worked and what did not work?

You might like to reflect on specific processes, e.g. the problem identification process.

(250 words)

The goal of this project is to create a database for an online platform for BabyHut to spread, and expand its brand over social media. In order to finish the website on time, as soon as we received the notification about the project, our group quickly got together and formed a team. Luckily, we already knew each other because we are in the same club, so it is apparent that we used to work together, and know the strengths and weaknesses of the members. With those advantages, we aimed to get the HD grade for the ICT10001. We quickly created a group chat and set up a meeting immediately after the lesson. We discussed the position of each member based on their intelligence, background abilities, and characteristics. Following the guide on Canvas, we created a Gantt chart to keep track of project progress, and also assigned tasks to prepare for the project proposal. Reflecting on myself, I can see how important team management is not only in this project but also in a real-life one.

The team dynamic will still lead to the final result of the project. The project started at the third week of the course and we had a positive start when we planned for what we needed to do after the lesson of week 3. We understood, had clear communication and members were attentive to their own task. On the other hand, we could not choose a weekly meeting to discuss for the next task, each member was busy with their own work just because of the time when the meeting would be in the evening. Until the due date for the proposal, maybe everyone was afraid of late submission, so our team leader decided to hold a google meet on each Wednesday evening. From there, the progress of our team went thoroughly, anyway there were some tasks that was slower than the planned but we already calculated and helping each other to finish.

Reflect on and discuss:

- What worked and what did not work?
 - 'What tasks did you complete during the semester. What technical issues did you face and what did you learn from the experience? Remember to reflect on how you resolved the issues
- What collaborative approaches did you use to communicate with your team? Were there any resources that you found useful from the Teamwork module?

(250 words)

As a member that was responsible for the first step of creating a host and installing WordPress on an online host, I had to read all the documents that the course provided on Canvas. Moreover, I had no idea what WordPress was or how to use it, I had to find more videos about making websites with Wordpress on Youtube for additional instruction. It was a little bit challenging when I still had the other course to finish at the same time. After a few days of exploring and playing with WordPress, our team leader held a meeting and assigned all the team members to search, and set up a testing WordPress website with a free domain as well as hosting. First, I tried to follow the instructions on Canvas and try all websites provided for a hosting database and a free domain. I tested them all and realized that these free ones were not stable and could crash anytime. They were slow and limited the capacity for plugins and pictures. Because of the goal that our team aimed for HD so I decided to use my own money to hire a domain name, and a person hosting the database. It turned out really well when our teams can download and take advantage of plugins as many as we want, with a 2GB of storing images, information that we can adjust for the website. Until now, I am proud to myself because not only I completed an important steps for the project but also about the ability self-learning and researching skills.

Reflect on and discuss:

- What strengths and skills have each of your team members brought?
- What issues did you face both individually and as a team? How did you resolve any issues that you faced?
- How could you leverage each others' strengths moving forward?
- What benefits (regarding team interaction and project management) do you think came from completing a prototype before completing the final version.
- What collaborative approaches did you use to communicate with your team? Were there any resources that you found useful from the Teamwork module?

(250 words)

First, I want to mention our team leader - Mai Phuong, she is a intelligence leader who she is the president of a board game club, with the experience from there she led the team to the right tracks and always announcing members to finish their task on time, and is the one that giving the final decision. Bao and Duy are very dedicated and always contributing during the meeting. Besides that, I have some issues with our leaders not about the task we are doing, she usually reminds us to finish the work not in the morning, but at midnight when I am very sleepy. In addition, Duy is so healthy that he doesn't usually check the messages, so we hardly contact him. The solution here was we would announce the progress as well as the meeting before a few days. As a specialist, I usually give advice to the members so they can work more easily. Also I usually posted some videos that can contribute to the website in the chat so the rest of the team can watch and learn. Working as a team I think that people can point out the mistakes that an individual gets, and together solve them with solutions. Moreover, it can increase the communication skills, the ability to transmit information to your fellowship. During the course, I used the way that I contributed to the team. Sometimes, I shared the task with my teammate in order to get the work done.

- Consider and discuss one key learning that you have had during your journey in this unit. Describe in detail an event/situation/issue during this semester to illustrate this.
- Relate this to the theory on teamwork and project management concepts you have learned from the unit. Explain why you chose this theory.
- Explain how key learning from this analysis will influence your future and why.

(450 words)

Throughout the project, I learned one of the most important things about creating a website I was responsible for finding a domain and a hosting server. There were many options for a free domain as well as a hosting database for the website. I want to mention the period before that when our team practiced through localhost used by Xampp, because of a local host so, we can't not access it through the Internet, I tried too many free hosting. However, these servers have limited the capacity to 200MB and that wasn't enough for our team to develop the project. We immediately decided to hire a domain and a hosting database, I found the 123host.vn which provided many suitable price options for students like us. We spent about 150.000 VND for the 1-year domain name and 3 months on the database. The process of pointing the domain name to the hosting gave me some challenges, luckily, after a few hours of researching, I was successful to use that domain to access the hosting. In addition, we have already finished almost the website from the localhost, the problem here is how to upload it to our new hosting server, with my basic skills with computers as well as the knowledge I learned from the course, I zipped and unzipped to the hosting server. Still, it caused an error in the database different because the database from the local host is different from the online one. I accessed to the wp-config.php and changed the database name to the new one. The results turned out pretty good that the domain worked and can access by all our team to adjust it. The concept of team works and system management concept I learned in the course is the importance of teamwork, and team communication, these concepts helped us to plan all the tasks, communicate to solve problems as well as set a possible solution for the problem we are dealing with. After this group project, I achieve a lot of knowledge not only working individually skills but also the teamwork powers. I saw the strengths of each member and I would like to learn from them. Besides that, the course helps me have a comprehension view about identifying, solving problems as well as the experiences with WordPress. As an IT, I can use this in the future as a website developer, or open my own business in the future. For a closer future, I plan to use WordPress to creating my personal website for my portfolio CV which I thought would be a mark of the employer.

Conclusion

(50-100 words)

In conclusion, the course is very helpful for my way studying that taught many the concept of solving problems to a business that I will face in the future. Once again, I much appreciate to our lector Dr. Doan Huy Xuan Minh for his passionate, and experience to the class.

References