

FenixEdu Team

# Miguel Borges

*(Learning Report)*

**Abstract**—This paper resumes the main reflections from my activities on a scholarship at Direção de Sistemas Informáticos (DSI). I present in detail the main goals of this activity and how i tried to achieve them. During the scholarship several difficulties and solutions have been found and will be addressed on this document.

**Index Terms**—Independent Studies, Scholarship, DSI, FenixEdu, Learnings

# 1 INTRODUCTION

On this report i will detail the learnings acquired during my independent studies activity in which i had a scholarship for making part of the development team of FenixEdu project at DSI. The learnings are organized in a temporal basis, being related with the activities related on the Activities Report. I start by explaining the main motivation behind this activity and the main goals i expected to achieve on Section 2. After that, on Section 3 i explain the learnings acquired that are related with the job interview. The learnings from the initial activities are detailed on section 4. Section 5 is related with learnings taken from the team work performed during the activity and finally, on Section 6, i give a resume with the main conclusions taken from this activity.

## 2 MOTIVATION

The main idea behind this scholarship was to put into practice some of the knowledges learned during my studies at Instituto Superior Técnico (IST) on a real product with a large community of users. My main goals were to learn with other more experienced workers and with the challenges that would be proposed. As

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i would deal with real tasks, having requirements and delivery dates, it should improve my responsibility, forcing me to better manage my time between the scholarship, my studies and my personal life. This activity should also allow me to learn how it is to work on software development and discover whether i like this area or not, allowing me to take a better decisions about my future.

### 3 JOB INTERVIEW

The job interview for this activity was not the first i went to and i had already been interviewed for DSI before. After reading some articles i have chosen to prepare this interview in a different way by rebuilding my Curriculum Vitae (CV) with more information about the main academic projects and other projects i had done during previous internships. I have also studied the project in which i would be integrated and the main technologies used. After that, i have prepared some questions about their system and next steps they could take. When i entered to the interview i was still nervous but i was able to follow my plan and ask some of the questions in terms of technologies and future developments on the project. This was still one of my first interviews and i think that it was important for gaining more practice. I learned that it is very important to prepare this kind of events with some time. It is also very important to maintain calm during the interview so that the fact of being nervous doesn't disrupt the interview.

[illegible]

#### 4 INITIAL ACTIVITIES

I think that the time spent on training and the first dinner was very important for me to know the remaining people with whom i was going to work and gain some trust to talk with senior workers when needed. Besides people being very focused and engaged in their work, i thought there was a relaxed environment and we were able to communicate with each other when needed. On the initial activities i was introduced to several processes related with managing and planing of the project that i didn't knew and i needed to learn and adapt to those processes. There was also some processes related with the development and using of some technologies. It is important that every team member to loose some time with those organization aspects as it allows the team to produce better results. At the beginning, not having any knowledge about those processes and technologies, i learned a lot with the learnings from senior members of the team. I asked questions very frequently and wrote some of their answers in a structured way so that i was not always asking the same questions.

#### 5 TEAM WORK

As the time passed by and i had performed more tasks, i got used to the way of working, the managing and communication processes in our team. I noticed that tasks that at the beginning required me a great effort became progressively easier and the time for executing them was reduced. In what relates to the managing and planing tasks, at the beginning i did not gave them much value, but i learned that when we work in a bigger team, those tasks become really important so that the work between the different members of the team are in sync.

The communication between the team members with which i worked was also very important. When working in team by the first times i asked relatively few questions about the decisions being made and accepted them. However, after gaining some confidence with the other members i participated more in the discussions. I thinks that participating in those discussions was also very important as it allowed me to

learn about what are the best moments for giving my opinion and how important it is to justify those answers. At the same time i also learned that when we don't have enough knowledge about some subjects it is better to listen what others with more experience have to say and ask questions when it is relevant.

I consider that participating in the team weekly meetings was a good decision, although my presence was not relevant for the meeting progress, i have chosen to go there and listen to what other members of the team had to say. This has contributed to my learning about some behaviors that we should have during a work meeting. The content of those meetings was also very important as i was able to have a better notion about the work being done by our team and how i could contribute to achieve the team's main goals.

During my academic experience i had to work in group very often, however i found that in the context of this activity it was very different to work in team, mainly because i was used to the fact of every element having the same vote in the main decisions of the group. In the context of this activity i was not always able to make some decisions as the senior members have the final vote. Learning how to work in this context was not easy at the beginning as we still have to give our opinion but in the end we must accept the decision made by members of the team with more experience. At the beginning i was focused on trying to prevail my opinion, but as the time passed i realized that the best strategy is to learn with the opinion of other members and try to understand their point of view, pointing out relevant issues.

#### 6 CONCLUSION

This activity was truly enriching due to the diverse tasks developed during my scholarship at DSI. Those tasks and the integration with experienced professionals contributed to diversified learnings.

The team work, the communication and organization processes have contributed to increase my skills in what related to organization and communication with others.

In this type of document (Technical) The Conclusion should start with a summary of the subject explored and then highlighting the results

Being able to manage my time between the scholarship, the studies and personal activities required an high effort and was very important to learn that maintain some stability on my schedules but also maintaining some level of flexibility to deal with problems not taken into account.

This activity has also allowed me to learn about the area of software development and will be important to discover what i want to do in the future, after the conclusion of my master theses.