

# ISACA Student Group

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## *Learnings Report*

**Abstract**—Throughout the activity's execution of creating IST's ISACA Student Group, a number of experiences taught me how to take the reins for achieving the goals prospected to achieve. I was given the chance to put my own soft-skills to the test, to work on them and improve them. This report presents an introspection and reflection over all the work accomplished and highlights the obstacles and workarounds designed to overcome those on which I stumbled; as well as the effects such obstacles had on me and particularly on my resolve for succeeding in being one of the founders of this group. Accomplishing this activity made me feel the urge of taking the initiative to solve and sort things out, to learn how to "get things done", to cooperate, to delegate, to plan and organize. All these contributed towards my learning process and soft-skills development.

**Index Terms**—soft-skills, learning, introspection, reflection, leadership, cooperation, organization

*do NOT use contractions!*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

THIS report focuses on exposing both, the personal experience and growth, acquired from concluding the Group Activity of creating IST's ISACA Student Group. During the execution of such task, our group was confronted with the challenge of fulfilling a number of requirements in order to become this Student Group's founders. Nonetheless, each one of us had their own challenges.

Working in a group is not always easy, there may be communication issues, setbacks, withdrawals, misunderstandings, inertia, lack of commitment, inspiration, creativity, poorly defined goals, and the list goes on. With such a prone environment towards group conflicts, there's always something we get to learn out of a group activity. Sometimes we don't understand how much we've progressed until we take a second to look upon oneself and use that little time for reflection and introspection; because in the midst of the frenzy to reach the goals, a leader arises, a creative person grabs the pencil, an organizer plans the activities so

the group won't become sloppy, and so on.

In the following few sections of this report it will be explained what difficulties forged my path into assuming a handful of roles in this group, as well as the competencies/soft-skills I believe to have improved. Each section's name correspond to the main developed competence; in parenthesis are named the secondary competences as they might be intrinsic to the first.

## 2 LEADERSHIP

A leader always wants what is best for their crew, for the failure of one is the failure of the team. During this activity I was able to experience that feeling, I wanted us to succeed, all of us, as founders of another *Arm* of a world-wide known reputed Association such as ISACA. But what pleased me the most is that each one of us rose as a leader in their own time, seeing as when one was overwhelmed another would come to back that one up.

And with this, the urge of always being at the top of the hour came to me like something natural, something I felt I was responsible for so we wouldn't fail to achieve our goals. I learned that to motivate someone one has first to set the example, rather than just telling others what to do, and I'm glad we were able to motivate each other for that matter.

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*incomplete: other group members?*  
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(1.0) Excellent	LEARNINGS						DOCUMENT						
(0.8) Very Good	Context × 2	Skills × 1	Reflect × 4	Summ × .5	Concl × .5	SCORE	Struct × .25	Ortog × .25	Exec × 4	Form × .25	Titles × .5	File × .5	SCORE
(0.6) Good	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0		1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.8	1.0	
(0.4) Fair													
(0.2) Weak													

### 3 ORGANIZATION

(+ *Proactivity/Initiative/teamwork*)

Truly, I did not know I had it in me. But now that I come to think of it, I can see that the last activity I enrolled in had already taught me so much about this matter that I was able to apply all those lessons in this new endeavor.

When we grabbed this activity by the hand I immediately knew how to set things up to rapidly accomplish each task, so I stepped forward. I started by drawing sketches, building drafts, anything that would help give some structure to what had to be done.

However, I was able to, once again, testify how important it is to simply put our thoughts out on the table, even when we are not sure of what we are doing. Nothing comes out perfect at round one. The idea of one, for as puerile as it may sound, may become the solid foundation of the big picture when combined with the work of many; and in this activity I was reminded of that.

### 4 RESOURCEFULNESS

(+ *autonomy/perseverance/communication*)

Fulfilling the requirements to complete the creation of our ISACA Student Group was not always that easy, some I did not even understand. Hence, I contacted whomever I believed would answer those questions and shared with the group. However, as people usually say, not everything is sunshine and rainbows.

People are human, therefore prone to mistakes. There were times when we were put on hold or forgotten, so I learned to subtly and politely ask for the issue to be solved as fast as possible.

I too share a quote of mistakes, but I did not let them beat or demoralize me. With the right amount of emotional intelligence, we can reach out to anyone's comprehension to solve things out the best possible way, as long as they keep themselves open to that kind of intelligence. This reminded me that, once again, a good professional is not entirely defined by their technical skills.

### 5 CREATIVITY

Creating an ISACA Student Group is not all about bureaucracies, it is also about being inventive and creative in the perspective of arousing curiosity and attention in people in order to join our group.

Although this is the most obvious sense of creativity, I just came to realize that this soft-skill is actually present in many other little things that pass us by unnoticed. Take Organization for instance, to plan, to sketch, to prototype, they are all organizational activities but they all give use to imagination. Even Leadership, each leader has its own way of solving a conflict, and getting to that solution takes some amount of creativity in order to get past the conflict smoothly. Creativity is almost in everything we do that is not innate.

### 6 CONCLUSION

Concluding this activity did indeed make me realize that not everything is about technical knowledge, there is much more adding up to what makes us successful in our commitments.

Intelligence comes in many forms, and not exclusively from knowing how to get things done. Self-awareness – being able to analyze one's emotions, behaviors and thoughts – is a type of intrapersonal intelligence that allows us to grow, to do better for ourselves and for others. Working in a group stimulates the development of these skills, as we are confronted with a self-assessment of all the work we have done, leaving us to think about how much of a help we actually were, and if we could have done any better. Reflecting about our capabilities and limitations helps us to surpass them and exceed ourselves.

Furthermore, thinking about the process our group went through to accomplish this task, made me remember what we, Engineers, are meant to do – to work for the people, to build innovative communities bringing new realities to our world, to revolutionize the future. Creating this group made me feel like it is possible for a rookie such as myself to be a part of this race towards society's evolution, and allowed me to taste the reality that someone small can go big.

*which one? ugly!*

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