

Por2folio

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Learnings Report

Abstract—Being part of the Por2folios activity helped me develop a few soft skills but foremost it taught me a lot about the importance of the activities executed by the students of this course. This activity helped me developed a few of my soft-skills like time management and evaluation skills which I believe are important for my future. This activity also helped me see a side of the course of Independent Studies that I could not hope to know if not for this activity.

Index Terms—Independent Studies, Por2folio, Reports, Time management, Teamwork

Grammar! Orthography! Punctuation!

1 INTRODUCTION

IN this report I am going to describe what I took from the activity of Por2folio. I will start by pointing out the soft-skills that grew from executing the activity and recount the overall reflections I made throughout the evaluation of my colleagues past reports.

2 SOFT SKILLS

The purpose of the course of Independent Studies is to develop students soft skills. In the following sections I will describe some of the soft skills that were improved due to the execution of the activity of Por2folio.

2.1 Time Management

This semester it was difficult to consiliate all the courses schedule with the work to be done.

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Because of that I needed to manage my time carefully. After evaluating a few reports I decided that it would be better to focus first on the other courses that I found to be more urgent and stressful than this activity, and only after work harder on the execution of the activity even though it would require less time and be less stressful. By the end of the semester I did not regret my decision because it turned out that I became more productive and fair on the evaluation of the reports from before.

2.2 Teamwork

This activity was composed of seven people. Because of this high number it was needed to have a lot of coordination to go through the execution of the activity and achieve its objectives. I learned that when dealing with a big group sometimes you need to take a step back on your ideas and go with the ideas of others that have already been accepted by the other members of the group. This is because if everyone started giving a lot of different ideas we would have spent an indefinite time brainstorming and little time would be left to actual execute any of the ideas and with it be very difficult to achieve our objectives.

2.3 Reflection about the subject

The evaluation of my colleagues past reports was the main part of the activity. It gave me a sense of what they had done and learned from executing their activity. Furthermore, and

(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	0.9	1.0		1.0	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.0	1.0	
(0.4) Fair													
(0.2) Weak													

foremost, it allowed for me to develop my judgment skills by grading it which also allowed me to reflect on the state of the course of Independent Studies. I learned that a person needs not only to write well, but also needs to write the content according to the purpose of the document, else it will not matter how well it is written, and because of it the grade will still be as bad as a badly written report, even though it is quite entertaining to read those reports. I also learned that the students that find this course a hassle on their path to graduate will often do the least work possible to get a passing grade, which is observable of lack of content and effort put on the report and consequently their grades. Even though it is fairly easy to get a good grade on this course, students only do enough for a passing grade, most likely because the credits for this course is only of 1.5, which is just a fifth of the 7.5 credits from other courses.

activity and my colleagues that worked with me on this.

3 CONCLUSION

The Por2folio activity allowed me to improve a few soft skills. Soft skills like time management, developed due to the compromise between every course done during the semester, teamwork, developed from the number of people working on this activity with me, and reflection about a subject, acquired by reading and evaluating past Independent Studies reports from my colleagues. It is my opinion that even though the objectives purposed by the sponsor of the activity were achieved, this activity should not have had so many students working on it. Instead the activity could have been divided into several independent sub-activities with different objectives. Since the objective was only to create a process in which to evaluate reports into categories I think it was a waste of manpower to put so many people solely working on the process and instead have some of the people working on for example creating a place and/or a place to make the information public to other students.

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About me My name is Filipe Silva, I am 23 and I am pursuing my Engineering studies at IST! (IST!). I am doing Software Engineering as major and Enterprise Information Systems as minor for my masters degree.