RSLingo: Towards a better System Requirements Specification Template

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Learnings Report

Abstract—In this activity I had the chance of working in the areas of Requirements Engineering and System Modeling by doing a Requirement Specification Template, presentations, reports and work in a good group where I learned very much not only about these areas but in terms of soft-skills too.

Index Terms—Requirements Engineering, System Modeling,RSLingo,**SRS** Learning,Teamwork

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1 INTRODUCTION

THIS report have the goal of telling a little bit of my experience and what I learned in the RSLingo activity, in terms of technical and soft skills, but my focus will be in the soft skills. I will tell about my activity role, what problems and difficulties I faced during the activity development, what I learned with those problems, what solutions I think it would resolve them and finally, the results of the activity.

2 ACRONYMS

- **SRS** - System Requirements Specification
- **IST** - Instituto Superior Técnico
- **PhD** - Doctor of Philosophy

3 MY ACTIVITY ROLE

My activity started in the beginning of January and still is being done.Was done mainly in the **IST** university but in some cases at home and my role was to develop a **SRS** template together with Teacher Alberto Silva and another Student.

We knew that to do this activity well done we needed teamwork, me and my colleague

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needed to make some tasks and to meet with the teacher almost weekly to discuss what we did and to plan our next tasks of the next week.

Some tasks that we did involved reading some of the existent RSLingo articles and a **PhD** thesis made by a doctoral student to better understand the template to be done and discuss between us how to do it.

Others tasks involved doing some part of the template in excel and then model with images a Billing System to have it as an example to put the requirements in the excel.

Other important task was to prepare and do a presentation about the work being done to Students of the Modeling course, where we showed and explained the template and his advantages.

4 PROBLEMS AND DIFFICULTIES

While doing this project, I had some problems, the problems were:

- **Presentation Inexperience**, through this activity happened some situations that made me think about how to prepare some work or presentation. In the beginning of the Portfolio course we did a text to present our self-initiative activity and when I did the text I was making it in a way that I could explain the the work to be done in technical terms but I forgot that this course and the people that would evaluate my self-initiative activity,

	LEARNINGS						DOCUMENT						
(1.0) Excellent	Context×2	Skills×1	Reflect×4	Summ×.5	Concl×.5	SCORE	Struct ×.25	Ortog×.25	Exec×4	Form ×.25	Titles ×.5	File ×.5	SCORE
(0.8) Very Good													
(0.6) Good	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.2		0.6	0.8	1.0	1.0	0.8	1.0	
(0.4) Fair													
(0.2) Weak													

[Handwritten annotations: "Which one?", "This is not an abstract of the document!", "Too Technical!!", "incomplete: date!"]

were more concerned with the soft-skills that my activity could provide, my activity almost wasn't accepted. The second thing that happened was in the presentation were I tried to explain to students, the work that we were doing with good real life examples where the template could be an advantage but we didn't prepared that presentation that much and we improvise a little bit, the presentation wasn't bad but could be better if we practice a little bit more.

- **Time**, while doing this project, I had classes in the demanding University **IST** and a part-time job as a developer to manage, I was doing 4 courses, I had weekly projects to do, most of them very demanding and I wanted to have good grades, not only pass them. I still needed to have some time to my girlfriend and friends. All this made me have less time for this project than I would like.

5 WHAT I LEARNED?

This is what I learned in each problem that I had and what I think I could do better.

- **Presentation Inexperience**, with the problems that I had with my text presentation and my presentation of the work done to students, I learned that I need to understand who is the people that will see my presentation, what is their concerns and what would they like to see and listen in my presentation. After that I will be able to prepare a better presentation to my viewers and get a more satisfying and successful presentation.

- **Time**, with this problem, I learned that I still need to be even more organized and that normally things take a little bit more than expected, I had time enough to do a fair job but my goal was to do an excellent job and for that I need to organize and plan my time even better.

6 THINGS DONE RIGHT

This is the things that I learned in Portfolio II and other life experiences that I applied in this activity and that helped me a lot.

- **Teamwork**, something that I tried to do in the past was to do everything well done and alone to make sure that I could get good results but I learned that to really get the best results possible I needed to motivate my colleagues to be better and to be organized as a group, every people have strong and weak points and even the best students or workers need help to get better results. In this activity I did that with my colleague and I can say that this is the number one reason why we did a good work in this activity.

- **Be Proactive** In my last Portfolio Course (II), I was always expecting that someone could tell me what to do and just after that I would make the work asked, for that reason I did a worst job but I did reflect about it and in this activity I was proactive, being the one that almost every time had the initiative to discuss the next step of the work and to make questions when needed before someone could tell me what to do.

- **Adaptability/Flexibility** This is something that I learned some years ago, in the past I worked always how and when I liked, no matter where or with who I worked, I tried to make my colleagues use always my style of working but fast I learned that this is not the way. Some people prefer to do more practical works while some are better in theoretical works, some people prefer to work really hard 2/3 days a week and don't work the rest of the week, while some people prefer to work less but work all week. I'm the type of person that like to be flexible and adaptable, I believe that being like that, compensating other peoples weakness and using their strengths is the best way to lead a group to success. One example would be, having 2 projects, one more practical and one more theoretical, if I know that I have a colleague that don't like to work at many things at the same time, is very practical and gets things done in that way, I would say to him to focus on the practical work, while I would focus on the theoretical work and some times we could exchange some ideas about each other work. Trying to put him working

on the theoretical work when he doesn't even want to do it, would be an error. I would like to finish this subsection with the following quote, said by Charles Darwin "It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent that survives. It is the one that is most adaptable to change".

7 RESULTS

This activity is almost finishing, we still need to write a small article about the template done. We finalized the template with success and our teacher seems satisfied with the work done, we learned much in terms of technical skills related with the Requirements Engineering area and Systems modeling, but we also learned about soft-skill as said in Chapter 5. Probably our work will be used in the future by master or PHD students in the context of a thesis to try add value in the RSLingo project.

8 CONCLUSION AND SELF-EVALUATION

I had fun with this type of project because is one of the areas that I like the most, I am happy for my learning in this project. I spent close to an average of 5 hours/week since the beginning of January, including meetings,presentation, reading articles, research, modeling of the billing system, doing the template and making this report, giving a total of more or less 100 hours currently. I didn't go to all Portfolio classes because I had to work in my job as a developer at the time of the classes but I did read all the theoretical classes and I did a good work in this activity.

My self-evaluation overall is 18 (in a grade 0 to 20).

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REFERENCES

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