

# Working in a startup called Dreemo

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## Learning Report

**Abstract**—This document describes my experience in working at Dreemo, which led to an improvement in several skills. Dreemo is a technological startup whose vision is to change the way people share their experiences. Throughout the activity, I exercised many soft skills, such as responsibility, cooperation, problem-solving, project management, communication, and others. In this report are detailed a few situations that directly contributed to my personal development of each soft skill.

**Index Terms**—Dreemo, Technology, Social Network, Startup, Work, Developer, Soft Skills, Responsibility, Cooperation, Problem-Solving, Project Management, Communication

*Excessive! No more than 5 or 6!*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

THIS report documents some of the experiences I have had during the activity, and my reflections concerning these experiences.

There are some situations that occurred during the activity that stand out more because they required more from me. These situations have led to my personal development, and will certainly improve my role, both as a professional and as a person, in future situations.

The rest of the report is organized as follows. In section 2 are presented the objectives of the activity. In section 3 are described the skills and the experiences that I consider to be improved along the activity, and my reflections about them. Finally, section 4 concludes the report.

## 2 OBJECTIVES

I accepted working at Dreemo for two main reasons: first, I wanted to know what is it like to work in a startup, and second, I consider

the solution Dreemo is trying to create an improvement when compared to the existing solutions, and imagined how far this idea could go.

Studying is very good for the students who wish to acquire knowledge in a specific field. It is also an essential capability required for survival. If one can not learn, he will not be able to get a job. Even the most simple jobs require learning. But learning about a specific field is not enough. A person can be an expert in a field, but if he does not have the ability to communicate the key messages to the others about that field, the knowledge will end there. For this reason, I wanted to get more experience in working with other people, with the goal of improving my ability to share my knowledge and life experiences, while learning with the others.

This job provided these opportunities. At Dreemo, I could make use of my technical skills and improve them, I would have the chance to share my knowledge with other people in the same field, and I would also have to talk to people about the product, and identify whether the product meets the customer's needs, and if not, what should be changed.

## 3 SKILLS

In this section are explained the main skills I consider to have improved throughout the

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(1.0) Excelent	LEARNING					DOCUMENT						
(0.8) Very Good	CONTEXT x2	SKILLS x1	REFLECT x4	S+C x1	SCORE	Structure x0.25	Ortogr. x0.25	Gramm. x0.25	Format x0.25	Title x0.5	Filename x0.5	SCORE
(0.6) Good												
(0.4) Fair												
(0.2) Weak												
	1.8	1	3.6	0.7	7.1	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.2	0.5	0.5	1.95

activity and detailed the scenarios which led to the improvement.

### 3.1 Responsibility

When working at Dreemo, I had to satisfy the deadlines. Due to the fact that we used an agile methodology, *SCRUM*, we had new tasks to do every week. It was crucial that we performed those tasks in that time interval, otherwise the creation of the product would be delayed.

There were other deadlines that also needed to be considered. Each time the company participated in a competition, we really need to have everything ready, otherwise the team would present an unfinished product, which could lead to less chances of winning the competition.

### 3.2 Cooperation

One of the benefits of working at a startup is that, usually the company tends to be small. Since the beginning of my work, the team members were united and friendly. Every time someone had a problem, the others would help him. Also, before an important decision was performed, every team member would give their opinion and tried to reach a consensus.

### 3.3 Problem-Solving

As mentioned in the activity report, my main task was to help create a social network. This is not a simple task that can be done in one day. Planning and discussing several details was necessary prior any development, otherwise there was the risk of developing something irrelevant. I also had to research existing solutions, and learn about their advantages and disadvantages.

### 3.4 Project Management

In the beginning of the project, it was decided that the team should use *SCRUM*. For several occasions, I was the project manager, whose responsible for understanding what is still to be done or what problems have arised, and for assigning new tasks to the team members.

### 3.5 Communication

Working at Dreemo revealed to be a very communicative job. A lot of time was spent discussing about the product, how to do it, and how to improve it. We would also discuss what events the company should attend, and how to better catch the attention of the public.

I also had to communicate with unknown people about the product and try to understand what were their problems regarding the subject and conclude if the product solved their problem or how it could be adapted to solve it.

### 3.6 Handle Failure

It is known that 90% of startups fail. <sup>1</sup> At Dreemo, there is one experience that has definitely lowered the team's confidence levels: the fact that we had participated in three international competitions and did not won any of them. This revealed to be a bit harsh because we were working hard in the product and did not see any evolution in terms of growing user base. This was probably the warning signal that users do not want another social network and are satisfied with existing solutions.

## 4 CONCLUSION

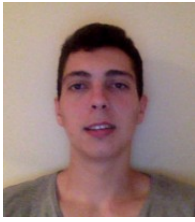
Working at Dreemo was a great experience. The activity proved to be challenging but rewarding. It allowed to use my current knowledge and develop a real world system to be used by other people. It also helped me improve myself as a person and as a professional.

I recommend anyone to work at a startup because it is a very intense environment where every team member is working really hard to contribute to the product, and the close contact with the general public can prove to be intimidating but advantageous in terms of extending your network of contacts.

1. <http://mashable.com/2013/02/04/why-startups-fail/>

In this type of document (technical), the conclusion should start with a summary of the subject addressed and then should highlight the results.

Amid using footnotes! This should be in References



**André Rodrigues** is 22 years old and is in the last year (5th) of the Master's Degree in Computer Engineering at Instituto Superior Tecnico (IST). He enjoys reading and to be up-to-date with the latest technologies and other related topics in Computer Science. Lately, he has been interested in the business world, specially in the startup world. After finishing his degree, he wants to develop some of his ideas and maybe, some of them will lead to the creation of a startup.