

Reflection Paper ~ revision CIS1254.0M1 Tammy Gibson

My name is Tammy Gibson and my major is programming and analysis. I expect to learn more about group collaboration, team work, leadership roles and types of communication in this course. I have a limited understanding of professional development skills required for technical careers. Although my current job requires a high amount of professionalism and expected performance, it is very specific to the law enforcement industry. This course, CIS 1254 Professional Development for IT Majors, will help me better understand the skills companies are looking for when hiring front end developers. The computer programming field has several career paths available for me to choose from. I could do application development for mobile devices or software development for enterprise use for example. The programming job I am most interested in is front end website development. This job focuses more on what the customer sees when interacting with a website. Some of the functions of this career include creating documents in HTML, CSS and Javascript. I would be responsible for transferring a design idea for a website into working code. In the future I hope to be able to learn more about how to program the server side of website functions and develop into a full stack website development. Full stack developers have a knowledge of databases and how the server interacts with requests from client programs. Jobs like these require having good soft skills, technical skills, business knowledge and workflow.

Soft skills are one of my stronger areas. I do not have much experience writing a resume or cover letter as I have been gainfully employed with the same company the last 13 years. I believe is very important to have an up to date resume. My current job has trained me to effectively to write letters and memos. However, I do not have much skill in producing applications. Prior to beginning this class I had set up a LinkedIn account to begin crafting my professional online presence. My research for front end development jobs has indicated that having an online portfolio is an important part of the interview process. I am currently researching the best place to host my ePortfolio, so as I grow as a programmer I can display my progress. I have a good understanding of oral presentations, visual materials to support the oral presentation and issues regarding professional codes of conduct. I have almost no understanding of liability issues, encryption, privacy, property right and licensing laws in relation to the work required of me for website development.

Good technical skills are required to stay on top of changes in programming languages. It is very important to keep up with reading articles on the latest technology trends. Front end web development is a fast paced industry requiring self-motivation and responsibility to see a project to completion. I have subscriptions to several front end development websites that provide news clips and demonstrations of programming topics. I want to keep up with

current development trends in order to provide the best quality work for my employer. I may be asked about new technology in a job interview and having at least an understanding of the topic would convey my willingness to learn new content. The website links in the assignments for this course have offered some really great places to learn more about career goals and company's expectations when hiring. I especially enjoyed the video on 352 media group since I am considering a job with them.

I do not have a current knowledge of business operations in the technical career fields. The quizzes in this course could help me establish a better understanding development topics such as group work, collaboration, effective communication, work ethics and leadership skills. This course covers time management which is of interest to me. My current commitments to work, family and college can leave me disorganized at times and I wanted to learn more about prioritizing my time. Front end developers are often a part of a larger group of people working on website development. I feel that learning about effective communication and group collaboration would really benefit my career growth. Those are my weakest areas, as I currently work independent of other departments. Workplace dress and demeanor for specific corporate cultures will require more research on my part.

The workflow tasks I want to learn more about include steps in problem solving and utilizing research skills to obtain information about jobs. I have never attended a webinar. I already completed the webinar required for this class and was happy with the experience. Webinars are a great opportunity to interact with people in technology and get feedback on topics of interest. This is my first class using Prezi for presentations. Prezi looks like a good program but at this point I am not sure how valuable it will be to me in my career. Front end developers usually present ideas using wireframe software made for that purpose or storyboards. I enjoy using GoogleDocs and I have been using the Google online products for several years. My last class required a group collaboration project using GoogleSlides and it was really enjoyable.

This paper has helped me to understand the importance of professional development activities. I now better understand what is expected of me entering the workforce in information technology. I see areas that will require further study after reviewing the curriculum for the CIS 1254 Professional Development class. My technical skills and business knowledge will be improved through the completion of the topics offered in this class and are not my strongest area. I have a good foundation of soft skills but look forward to continuing to learn what is expected of me and welcome the opportunity to enhance my workflow with the topics covered in this class.