

# Reflective Notes - Semester 1 - 2013

## COMP10120

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## **1 Course-unit evaluation**

### **1.1 What were the best things about this course-unit so far?**

This course unit first showed and introduced me to UNIX. It has provoked me to go and delve deeper into learning how a unified system works, the different parts of the system and how they interact with the programs that run on them.

I also enjoyed getting into the practice of using source control for all my work. I have had previous experience using SVN but using GIT has opened my mind to a different slant on what is essentially the same concept. The ability to see the modifications made to a file over its history and see what changes were made for what reasons and by whom.

This course unit has also forced us into working as a team. Whilst this is not an easy thing to do it is a required part of working in industry and is a valuable part of the course. The team dynamic has evolved from the first few tasks and we are organised with posting out work online for peer assessment to give opinions and improvements.

### **1.2 What were the worst things about this course-unit so far?**

My weak point in education has always been my writing skills. the reading week report I found tricky to write. I split the task into mini parts and

in doing this made the document difficult to put together and often lacked flow. I need to learn to proof read my work and take the time to do several versions.

With possessing some knowledge about the different parts of the web before coming to uni I sometimes found some of the work tedious and I also found myself helping others as often as I was completing my own work.

### **1.3 What were the most surprising things about this course-unit so far?**

This course is focused on independent learning and soft skills. This was surprising because I hadn't before expected that the school would think these important. However I now see that these are what sets us apart from the other potential candidates in the field and could be the reason we get employed over others.

The vast collection of different ideas for the different projects for this course have been surprising. Some will definitely be interesting and their implementation tricky. There are also some projects that have similar ideas and it will be interesting to see how the groups will distinguish themselves from the others by adding different implementations and interactions.

## **2 Knowledge**

### **2.1 What are the most important things that you have learnt during this course-unit (not including simple factual information)?**

The teamworking skills I have learned, organising meetings, writing minutes and organising work have been invaluable. This experience will allow me to better work in groups with subsequent projects. My leadership skills working to people's advantages and splitting work equally to best suit people's skills will allow better work efficiency within the group.

The other teamwork related knowledge I have / will learn is working with a team on one code-base and the problems and techniques that can make this possible.

## **2.2 What have you learnt about how you learn, and how you work as a member of a team?**

I learn a new topic or programming technique best when I have a project to work towards. I find if I have an end goal it is often easier to go and find what is next to do and the next hurdle to the end product.

When I work in a team I usually struggle with allowing others to be given tasks and ensuring they are done. This usually effects the work that was assigned to me. However with practice and experience the benefits of being a team member will allow me to help the productivity of the group.

## **3 Personal development**

### **3.1 How have you developed since the start of the year?**

I have developed many different skills in teamwork and learning whilst also learning their importance to the industry. After the settling down period I got more used to the new style of learning with lectures introducing new topics and then examples classes and labs to test this knowledge this development will hopefully continue and finish with a good end result.

### **3.2 What changes do you need to make next semester and how do you plan to achieve these changes?**

Next semester I will have more work and more things to learn. I am finding that revision would be easier if I had noted down concepts for the different courses and could now refer to these to ensure I do not miss out on part of a course. Next semester I will try to dedicate some time each week to write down a summary for each course and what I found difficult all this in the hope that it will reduce stress come exam time.