Reflective Journal

Student name: **Joey Tatú - 15015556**

Programme: **BSc (Hons) in Computing – Software Development**

Month: **November 2019 (Week 8 – 11)**

# My Achievements

For this month, I focused on the Requirements Specifications. At the start of the month, I was using my one I did last year as a template. However, as the month progressed, it’s as if it became its own identity, separate from last year’s.

## The main issues I had:

I was confusing functions with use cases.   
- I originally had 3 Use Cases; Create Profile, Create (Artist’s) Page and Create schedule. I was able to combine these into one Use Case.

I wasn’t sure of how to do the System Architecture.  
- This part confused me a little bit. I wasn’t sure if I was to do the website’s pages, or the likes of external systems.

The language I was using in the report restricted me in creation of the project, as well as it being too technical.   
- In the report, I had used “session cache and cookies”, which was too advanced. It was meant to be very simple as if a child could understand it.

As I write this, I am satisfied I can do no more with the Requirements Specification.

# My Reflection

I think my initial (possible) refusal to “dumb things down” was a bad choice. After speaking with Paul Stynes, my supervisor, it makes more sense to help everyone being able to read it.

If I could go back to the start of the month, I would tell myself not to focus on Requirements Specifications for other projects as they might not be applicable.

The resources for Use Cases are very misleading to what a Use Case and a function are. It is better to contact my supervisor instead of depending solely on resources.

# Intended Changes

During December, I’m planning to so my prototype in AWS Cloud 9, I’m considering doing the Create Schedule Use Case. The issue with this is that MySQL is within the System, I may leave it as it for the prototype only and change to an external database later. I will also need to prepare for my presentation in Week 14.

# Supervisor Meetings

I had two meetings with Paul. The first we discussed Use Cases on our own. The second, some other students that Paul is supervising and I had a group meeting with Paul. We discussed the difference between Use Cases and functions as well as the System Architecture.

I was taken aback at the different level of knowledge the other students had. It was a little baffling that with 3 previous years of creating projects and documents that some of the students were at a loss on how to do the Requirement Specifications. One student has just one Use Case split into different functions on the week that the Requirement Specifications were due. After the group discussed the System Architecture with Paul, one student asked “how do I complete the System Architecture?” I thought “Did he not listen to the group conversation?”. The following day in Data Application Development, he was not understanding how to do the MapReducer in Python even after the lecturer explained it multiple times to him.

To be bluntly and possibly cruelly honest, in the group meeting with Paul, I felt as if I was in a remedial class. Granted, I do understand that people learn at different rates and people learn at different rates, etc. Of course, I have a slight advantage with repeating this module, but still.

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| **Student Signature:** | Joey Tatú\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Date: 28/11/2019 |
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| **Supervisor’s Signature:** | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/2019 |
|  | PAUL STYNES |  |