



Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology
Faculty of Computing
Department of Information Technology

Personal Development Plan (PDP)

IT2100 – Employability Skills Development

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1. Self-Assessment

I started my self-assessment by looking back at my academic journey, the projects I've worked on, and my personal qualities. To gain a clear picture, I used the SWOT analysis framework alongside a skills audit. This reflection allowed me to clearly see the strengths I can build on, the weaknesses I need to improve, the opportunities I should make use of, and the potential challenges that could slow down my progress.

My strengths include strong technical skills in programming, especially in Java, MERN stack development, and Kotlin. I have gained hands-on experience from major projects such as Police360 and FurniHouse, which allowed me to apply theoretical knowledge to practical solutions. I am also adaptable, able to learn new technologies quickly, and possess a creative approach to UI/UX design using Figma and Canva. Furthermore, I have good problem-solving skills and enjoy working collaboratively within teams.

However, I also recognize several weaknesses. I have limited formal industry exposure and no internship experience, which restricts my real-world perspective. Time management is a challenge, particularly when handling multiple coursework deadlines. I often feel nervous when speaking in front of others, and this sometimes affects my confidence in communicating clearly. I enjoy working in teams, but I realize I need to improve my leadership and delegation skills so I can confidently take on bigger responsibilities.

My opportunities include the ability to participate in workshops, certifications, and career fairs at SLIIT. The IT industry is growing rapidly, both in Sri Lanka and globally, which opens up avenues in software engineering, cloud computing, and project management. Pursuing certifications such as AWS and Agile/Scrum will also increase my employability. Team projects also provide opportunities to enhance leadership skills.

One challenge I face is keeping up with the fast pace of technological change, along with the strong competition from peers who already have wider networks or extra certifications. Without continuous effort, I risk falling behind in a dynamic and evolving industry.

The skills audit I conducted revealed strong foundations in coding, debugging, and system design, but highlighted gaps in public speaking, leadership, time management, and cloud computing. These are the main areas I plan to focus on as I work on my development plan.

SWOT Analysis Diagram



STRENGTHS

- TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE IN JAVA, KOTLIN, PYTHON
- TEAMWORK AND COLLABORATION IN GROUP PROJECTS
- ADAPTABILITY TO NEW TECHNOLOGIES
- ANALYTICAL THINKING

WEAKNESSES



- PUBLIC SPEAKING ANXIETY
- TIME MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND PROCRASTINATION
- LACK OF INDUSTRY EXPOSURE



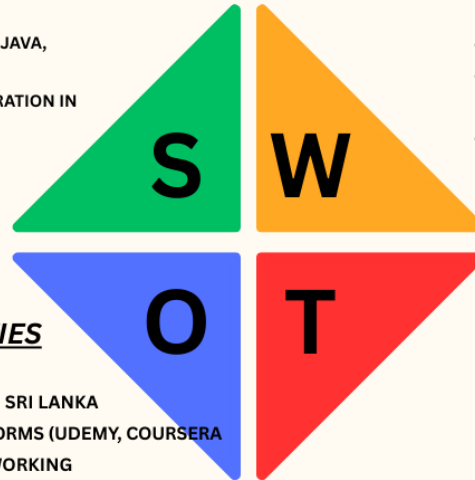
OPPORTUNITIES

- GROWING IT INDUSTRY IN SRI LANKA
- ONLINE LEARNING PLATFORMS (UDEMY, COURSERA)
- CAREER FAIRS AND NETWORKING

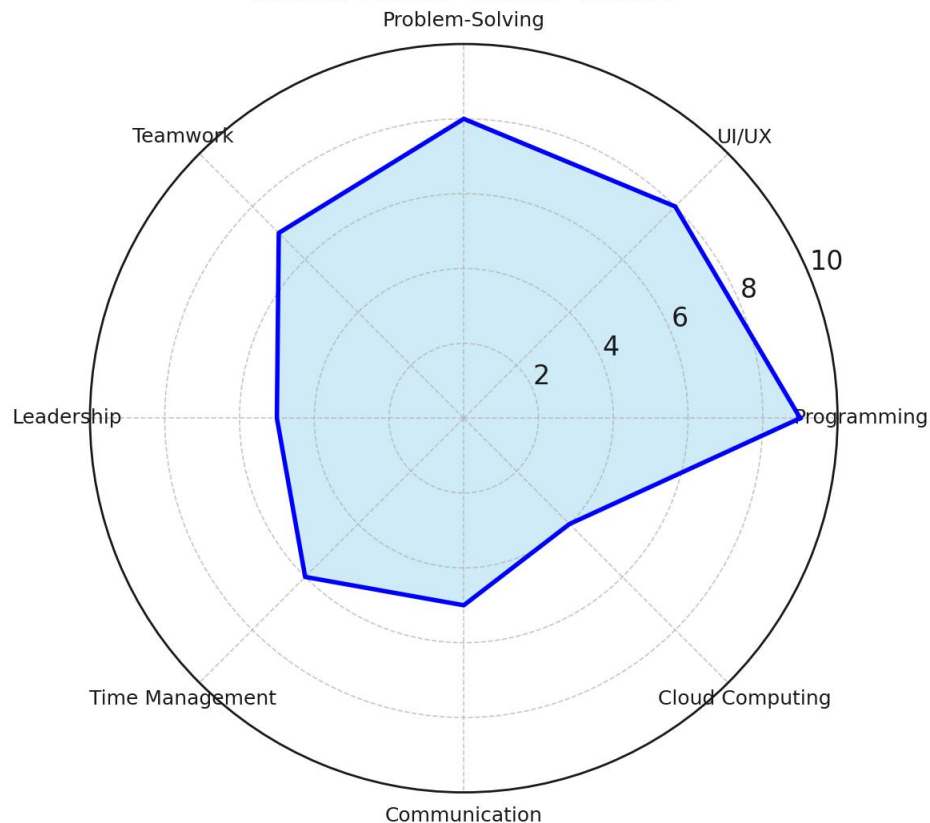
THREATS



- HIGH JOB COMPETITION
- RAPID TECHNOLOGY CHANGE
- ECONOMIC INSTABILITY



Skills Audit Radar Chart



2. Goal Setting

After thinking about my self-assessment, I set clear goals using the SMART framework (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound). These goals aim to help me tackle my weaknesses while also advancing my career. To make them easier to manage, I divided them into short-term, medium-term, and long-term objectives.

Short-term goals (6-12 months):

In the short term, my main focus is to improve my public speaking confidence. I plan to join a university debate club or Toastmasters and take every chance to speak in front of an audience. My goal is to deliver at least three class presentations and record them for reflection and improvement. Additionally, I want to complete the AWS Cloud Practitioner certification by December 2025 to expand my cloud knowledge. On the technical side, I will challenge myself to create at least three personal projects-one with the MERN stack, one in Java, and another focused on UI/UX through my FurniHouse project.

Medium-term goals (1-3 years):

Looking ahead, my medium-term goal is to gain real industry experience through a six-month internship in software engineering by mid-2026. This will help me apply my skills in a professional setting. I also want to take on leadership roles in at least two major academic projects, such as Police360, where I can practice guiding a team and managing tasks. At the same time, I plan to deepen my knowledge in data analysis by completing at least two online courses and applying what I learn through projects. To build my professional presence, I will also write and share at least two technical blogs on LinkedIn.

Long-term goals (3-5 years):

In the long term, I envision starting a full-time career as either a full-stack developer or an IT project manager in a well-known company. By 2029, I also plan to complete the AWS Solutions Architect certification to enhance my expertise in cloud technologies. Beyond my personal career success, I want to contribute to Sri Lanka's digital growth. Projects like Police360 and FurniHouse have already shown me how impactful IT solutions can be, and I hope to continue creating innovative systems that provide real value.

3. Action Planning

To achieve my goals, I created a structured action plan with clear steps, timelines, and resources. For my public speaking goal, I will actively join the debate club starting in February 2025 and volunteer for class presentations. I will also watch resources such as TED Talks and practice with peers. Feedback from lecturers will be sought to track improvement.

For AWS certification, I will enroll in AWS Academy by August 2025, dedicate at least five hours weekly to training and labs, and sit for the exam by December 2025.

To secure an internship, I will update my CV and LinkedIn profile by January 2026, participate in at least two university career fairs, and submit 15 internship applications by July 2026. I will also network with industry professionals for mentorship.

To strengthen leadership, I will volunteer as team leader in upcoming projects, including Police360, and actively delegate tasks. I will also join extracurricular activities such as event organization, which will allow me to practice coordination and management skills.

For professional branding, I will maintain my GitHub repository by uploading project work monthly, publish two LinkedIn blogs annually, and expand my network to 500+ connections.



4. Monitoring & Evaluation Strategy

To stay accountable, I will adopt a structured monitoring and evaluation strategy. I will review progress monthly using Notion dashboards and Trello boards, where each goal will have milestones. I will write reflective journals at the end of each semester to assess what strategies worked and what needs adjustment.

Feedback will play a central role. I will seek lecturer and peer evaluations after each presentation and leadership task, documenting their feedback for continuous improvement. If any goal falls behind by more than two months, I will reassess my approach, adjust timelines, and apply alternative methods. Success will be measured not only by completed certifications and project outcomes but also by improvements in soft skills such as communication and leadership.

5. Personal Insight & Motivation

My motivation comes from a strong desire to solve real-world problems through IT. Projects like Police360 have shown me how technology can improve public services. Meanwhile, FurniHouse has let me explore new ideas in user experience and design. These experiences have reinforced my belief that technology can make a real difference in society.

I am especially inspired by how fast the IT industry changes. It constantly pushes me to learn and grow. I see challenges, like anxiety about public speaking and gaps in leadership, as chances to step out of my comfort zone. My long-term goal is to help with Sri Lanka's digital transformation. I want to do this not just as a software engineer but also as a leader who can motivate and guide teams to create innovative solutions.

6. Presentation & Communication

I have created this Personal Development Plan to be clear and organized for easy reading. Each section transitions from self-assessment to goal setting, action planning, monitoring, and motivation. I have used simple language and made sure it is clear and error-free to demonstrate good communication skills.

To improve clarity, I used bullet points for listing goals, strengths, and skills. Longer sections are in paragraphs to provide detailed explanations. I also plan to include visuals like a SWOT table, SMART goals, and a Gantt chart to present my plans more effectively.

Overall, this PDP is designed to fulfill the assignment requirements while showcasing my ability to present ideas in a structured and professional manner. This skill is important for my future career in the IT industry.

7. Use of Tools & Evidence

To strengthen this Personal Development Plan, I have included tools and supporting evidence that show my current progress and future goals. I updated my LinkedIn profile to highlight my academic background, technical skills, and projects like Police360 and FurniHouse. This profile serves as a digital portfolio. It helps me connect with industry professionals, stay informed about opportunities, and track my growth over time.

I also prepared an updated CV that highlights my technical skills, teamwork experience, and important project contributions. This CV will keep evolving as I gain more experience through internships and industry placements. Additionally, I enrolled in learning platforms like AWS Academy and Coursera, where I am working toward certifications, including AWS Cloud Practitioner. I will use certificates of completion and progress reports as proof of my development.

I maintain a GitHub repository where I upload my coding work and project outputs. This repository serves as a clear record of my technical growth, showcasing my consistency in applying practical skills. You can find evidence of collaborative development, especially from my work on Police360 and FurniHouse, in this repository.

Finally, I plan to add a skills audit chart and visual documentation of project outcomes. These will provide solid proof of my skills. By combining these tools and evidence, I can support the goals set in this PDP and show my commitment to closing employability gaps through careful planning and action.