**Journal Report**

­Hello, my name is André Matheus Pedrosa. I'm an average young adult, very imaginative, with a deep love for felines and science, and a chronic problem of procrastination.

I'm writing this Journal Report to summarize the things I have done and learned during the CIT 360 course at BYU-I. So here it is:

**Week 1**

When I started this course I got scared by the number of things to do in the semester and the methodology of "learning by yourself". All of this looked too hard to accomplish, but I tried to not feel desperate or demotivated. I saw there were two paths that I could follow in the course for different grades, but even knowing the higher grade would be harder to achieve I chose to give it a try.

However, in this feeling of "It's still the first weeks", I didn't focused enough and let the time pass... week 1, week 2, week 3... when I realized I was in week 4 and haven't started anything yet! So, at the end of week 4, I rolled up my sleeves and started working on Java collections code.

**Week 5**

In Week 5 I kept studying, but still slowly. I took a break on studying Java collections to do a State Diagrams presentation (because it was my turn to teach the group and that was the topic I was responsible for that week).

**Week 6**

In week 6 I followed my uncle's advice and started waking up earlier. I began waking up 4:30 am to study before going to work, this improved my concentration and I was able to focus more and increase my study rate so I finished the Java Collections topic that week.

**Week 7**

I was definitely more consistent with my study, but I was still lacking some discipline (Whatsapp and Youtube were still stealing my time). Although, I could upgrade the Collections Sandbox code and also started and finished two other entire topics (GSON and MVC). It was more than the previous weeks, but I was still feeling I could do better.

**Week 8**

This was the week I started getting desperate. I noticed that unless I studied harder I would not be able to finish all remaining topics by week 10. To make things worse I thought that the only way to be eligible to receive an overall grade better than C was to have all topics finished by week 10 to then start an application (it wasn't accurate once missing topics only meant I would not be able to receive a higher-than-basic grade on \_these\_ topics, but could still increase my grade in the finished topics through the app). But, this misunderstanding ended up being a good thing because it woke up the panic monster in my mind, which made me drive my efforts to a much, much higher level. (For those of you wondering what the panic monster is, watch "[Inside The Mind of a Master Procrastinator](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=arj7oStGLkU)" by Tim Urban)

**Week 9**

In that spirit of frenzy, I started my 9th week. At this point, I left completely the group topics schedule to study them in my order (I was already not following the schedule, because I was late, but at least I was trying to stick to the order of the topics). However, I decided to change the order as a strategy to finish first the hardest topics and leave the easier ones to week 10 (like the diagrams, etc). This sounded better to me as finishing the hardest topics would make me feel less anxious.

So, being driven by this "supernatural" higher force of panic I had the two most intensive study weeks of my life. (Seriously, I have never studied so hard).

During these two weeks I, almost every day, woke up between 4:30-6:30 am, studied before going to work, then studied while going to work (in the cellphone at the bus), then (having brought my laptop with me) studied during half of my lunchtime at work, then studied going back home, then, after eating something and changing my clothes, I studied more until 10-12 pm, took 6 hours of sleep and repeated again. Phew...

By doing so I could start and finish the Servlets and JUnit topics in week 9.

**Week 10: The moment of truth.**

Okay, that was my last week to deliver the remaining topics. It meant just... *Threads Executors and Runnable, Hibernate, Application Controller Pattern, Use Case Diagrams, Use Case Documents, Sequence Diagrams and also upgrade my State Diagrams presentation*.

I knew that I would need as many time as possible to study all this, so I asked my boss for a rest day (as I had enough extra hours accumulated to compensate a day of work). However, because it was a week of high movement in the drug store, he gave me two half days instead (on Friday and Saturday), but it was enough...

I then rushed as much as I could, using almost all my "free" time to finish all topics... On the last day (Saturday), I started coding since I arrived home (about 7-8 pm), still with some topics to finish. The due time at my time zone was 3:00 am, Sunday, but I was decided to code until the last minute if necessary. The time was passing and my fear of not delivering the assignment on time was increasing exponentially. The hours were running and each topic I started seemed to take more time than expected to finish. 1 am, 1:30 am, 2 am, the clock would not stop working while the fatal hour was approaching. Topic after topic, studying, trying to understand and then coding until I finally finished all them! But, it wasn't enough. I still had to fill the Familiarity Review with all links and explanations before the due date.

**2:45...**

My fingers didn't seem to be fast enough to write the links and explanations in the Familiarity Review, my mind was spinning, and my body wasn't answering as fast as I wanted. It appeared I wouldn't be able to finish on time. I would not deliver it by the due date. I was so near and I was going to lose everything. Why had I procrastinated so much!? Why!?

**2:55!**

All topics were finished but there was still some missing parts on my Familiarity Review. If I didn't deliver it completed I would not be able to receive a good grade... As I was filling the left parts I decided to send it in the way it was. If I passed the due date before sending the rest, the sent Familiarity Review would be a witness that at least I tried, even if not worthy of a full grade, but if I finished everything on time I cold still overwrite the assignment with the completed Review.

I then kept writing after sending the Review, but the minutes were passing fast, 2:56, 2:57, 2:58!... I desperately put all the missing links to the remaining diagrams in the same last topic (hoping the instructor would ignore this) and sent it the last time: 2:59!

Phheeeeeeeeeeeewwwwww! [A deep breath of relief...] I did it! Now, the only thing I could do was take the rest of the night to retire to go to church the next day and hope everything would be okay.

However, it was not the end. I still had a lot of other things to do in the semester: the entire Java Application, Journal Report, Professional Behavior, etc. But I was tired, what if I took a day to rest? Maybe I could leave this work for latter, after all, I studied **so** hard. One or two days without studying would not harm me... (I thought).

**Week 13**

Wait! What!? It's already week 13?! How is it possible!?

Oh, no, I did it again... I procrastinated.

I missed again the opportunity to do better. How long will I take to learn to not leave things for the last hour?! Now I won't have time to do the Java Application and increase my grade. I'll have to rush on the other left assignments and stick to the path for a C hoping I'll have enough points to achieve it. And here I am now: Finishing my last assignments right before the due date.

That was a good semester, hard but I learned a lot of new things. It was difficult to understand many of them (like Hibernate, Threads and Executors, etc.) but it was worth it. By reading a lot, and searching on various sources, I was able to understand each topic, and that feeling of understanding made everything worth the hard work.

Too sad I didn't take the opportunity to learn to not procrastinate in week 10, what can cost me all the semester of work. I believe my reduced semester grade will serve me as a teaching and will help me to be more humble and dedicated from now on. Maybe that's the most important lesson after all.