**Reflective Report – Pritam Sangani**

**Description:**

I am currently working on a group project developing an e-commerce platform for a new company based in Manchester. The company, MaryAndAmy, are developing a simple-to-use online platform to help local bakers and companies in the party services industry, alike, connect with more customers than they can presently. I am writing this reflective report in the final stages of the project, which is part of the Professional Development unit on my Bachelor’s Computer Science degree. I was one of the lead developers on this project, as well as being an integral part of the discussions held during the planning stage of the project. The event that I am going to reflect upon is when the project team were preparing for the Showcase Event held in March 2018. We were in the process of integrating the back-end of the system with the front-end (the project, due to its complexity, was split into two distinct parts, the front-end and the back-end – my team were assigned to develop the back-end). During this process, we found that many of the files had to be altered in minor ways, such as renaming variables, for the system to remain functional.

**Feelings:**

I, personally, found this quite stressful, but I realised it was a good learning opportunity as I aspire to go into industry as a software engineer. System integration would be an important part of my work and thus I treated this task as experience into the work that I would be doing in the future. My fellow colleagues on the project team, did get quite stressed at times as we found it a difficult process, due to the mounting pile of bugs that needed fixing. I had to take lead and calm them down by staying optimistic and by suggesting that we take small steps in this entirely new process that we had no experience in.

**Evaluation:**

I feel that after I talked to the team, we all worked better as a team, which helped in organising the showcase event and making it a success. I felt that my project manager improved his delegation of tasks after this event occurred and I am proud that I had a part to play in that improvement. It also helped me as I was less stressful, as a result of the reduced stress levels of my colleagues. In that sense, I felt this event was a good experience for me as I developed my leadership and teamwork skills, which will help me in my career.

**Analysis:**

This stressful situation could have been avoided if we had better organised the project – I feel that the blame should not be put on the project manager. This is because, as a lead developer, I should have made it clear to my fellow developers what the variable naming convention was going to be and I should have taken the initiative to set the variable names, for parts of the code base, if more than one developer was working on a feature. I feel that if I want to realise my ambition of becoming a software owner/manager I will have to work on this area if I want to be successful in that role if I get the opportunity, later in my career.

**Conclusion:**

In hindsight, I would have not allowed myself to become as stressed as I was when undertaking this process. I would have dedicated more time to complete this task by starting the process of integrating the back-end earlier in the project, so when it came to integrating with the front-end, I would have been less stressed, which would have helped my team in completing the process sooner.

**Action Plan:**

In future, I will make sure that I set a clear variable naming convention before development starts, to ensure that all developers understand the style of variable names that is expected in the code base. I will also set slots in the schedule to stitch parts of the system together sooner, which would make testing and debugging the system a lot easier. This would also help later on in the project as there would be less work to do in integrating the back-end and front-end to create a fully functional and easy-to-use system – not just for the client’s customer, but the client as well.