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Subject: Mobile Computing

My Reflective Journal

My Journey Back to Programming through Mobile App Learning

Looking back to when I first enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Information Technology in 2008, I must admit I had little idea of what the course truly entailed or what future career it could offer me. At that time, I had minimal experience using computers, which made the transition into college-level IT subjects very challenging. I struggled particularly with programming subjects, which seemed overwhelmingly difficult at first. But over time, something unexpected happened I fell in love with programming. I realized that my strength in analytical thinking helped me grasp the logic behind it, and this led me to persevere and eventually pass the Programming NC IV, which validated my potential in this field.

After graduation, I was fortunate to land a full-time teaching job, where I handled IT subjects including Database Management Systems and programming. However, in hindsight, I now realize that I had limited myself by sticking to just one language .NET and using only MySQL for my database work. I became too comfortable and did not push myself to explore newer tools and technologies.

Four Years later, I shifted careers and spent eight years as a Graphic Artist and Computer Technician. Although still within the realm of IT, this shift moved me further away from programming. But now, as I return to the academe and pursue a Master's degree in Information Technology, I find myself diving back into the world of programming. This time, with a focus on current trends like mobile computing and web development.

Yes, it's difficult especially learning new languages and tools like Bootstrap, PHP, JavaScript, GitHub, and different web and mobile frameworks. But what makes the journey manageable and even more exciting is the presence of GitHub and AI tools like ChatGPT. They have truly transformed the way I learn and solve problems. Whenever I get stuck in code, need a concept explained, or want to quickly understand how a certain framework works, ChatGPT serves as a supportive learning companion. It helps me overcome roadblocks, explore multiple approaches, and gain clarity in ways that weren't available when I was first starting out in IT.

Learning again after years of being away is no easy feat, especially with the rapidly evolving nature of technology. Everything feels new. Bootstrap, PHP, JavaScript, GitHub, and various frameworks. But what makes the journey manageable and even more exciting is the presence of AI tools like ChatGPT. They have truly transformed the way I learn and solve problems. Whenever I get stuck in code, need a concept explained, or want to quickly understand how a certain framework works, ChatGPT serves as a

supportive learning companion. It helps me overcome roadblocks, explore multiple approaches, and gain clarity in ways that weren't available when I was first starting out in IT. I'm also now learning GitHub and starting to appreciate its powerful features, especially in version control, collaboration, and project tracking, which are essential in modern development workflows.

I'm also thankful for the encouragement of our professors, especially **Doc. Elbren Antonio**, who continuously pushes us to go beyond our comfort zones and embrace continuous learning. With his guidance and the support of modern tools, I feel empowered to catch up and even move forward in this ever-evolving field.

Despite the difficulty, relearning programming in today's context is a challenge, but it is also a blessing. The tools are better, the resources are richer, and my mindset is more mature. Mobile app development has not only brought me back to coding. It has reawakened my purpose. I now realize that learning never stops, and with passion, discipline, and the right support, even what once seemed impossible can become fulfilling.