CIT 360

Journal Report

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Throughout the semester, I have kept a small notebook next to my desk to record insights as the course has progressed. These were short entries, which recorded insights regarding the team project, brainstorm sessions for my coding topics, and general thoughts about what I had learned.

Early in the semester, I resolved to be the go-to when the teams were first organized. I created a community and sent invites to the team members. However, Olan did the same thing, and there were more members on his community than the one I created. I didn’t mind, I was just pleased that there was another teammate who had tenacity.

I opted in our team meetings to present on UML first, as this was a topic that we were concurrently studying in CIT 262. This made the workload considerably less for this time of the term. The team enjoyed the hangout presentation, and had no questions. I assumed this was because they understood well enough.

When it came time for the coding topics, I found several online tutorials on YouTube that would help me to study while I was travelling for work. This helped me organize my time well, so that when I came home for doing my academics, the topic was fresh in my mind. This taught me the lesson of using time wisely, and shortened the amount of research that was required at home. Generally, I would look up specific issues regarding the way I was coding.

After we, as a team, had designed and implemented our project, my attention turned toward my own coding topics, to make them as readable as possible with plenty of comments where any explanation was necessary.

In these last two weeks, I have been finishing these topics, and reflecting on what I have to take away from the semester. Most of this is outlined in my professional doc. As I review my notebook, I have learned the value of team communication. It is crucial to reach out for help when needed, and not attempt to work through the issue alone. The real-world of IT work in teams and groups, where written and verbal communication are equally as valuable as coding ability itself.

The other take-away from this term is equally the ability to problem solve. As I progressed in my coding topics, I had to troubleshoot a lot of my own code. Often times it would not compile, sometimes for no apparent reason at all. The ability to own up to one’s issues and work them out is a vital part of work in IT. While a team, or teammate can assist, ultimately, it is up to me to ensure that things work properly, and to own up to my own work.

It’s been an enlightening course, and while it’s had its hardships, the return on investment this term was been well worth it.