CIT 360

Professional Behavior Evidence Document

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INTRODUCTION

During this course, I have learned more than just programming. Although it is a key element in the course, the central element was working with others. As noted in the syllabus, I emphasized my focus on these topics beings “used in all efforts by human beings to create quality components and systems; when we build anything of worth.”

My efforts were to accomplish two objectives. The first was to prove to myself through these coding topics to the best of my ability that I could sufficiently learn independently and from others’ examples of how to implement these topics in real-world situations. Many examples were simple, but designed in such a way that a user could follow the code and comments and understand what was occurring. The second was to interact with my assigned team (Team 3) in such a way that I could contribute something of worth to the team.

Although I did not achieve the final result I had wanted, I do believe that I have contributed my best efforts possible in this course. Our team design and implementation were not perfect, however we did achieve a cohesive work environment with each other – something that many remote teams can have difficulty to achieve. My topics had challenges and shortfalls, but they demonstrate the coding principle in a simple way.

The following will detail my interactions specific to its kind, and will attempt to best describe my involvement this term.

INTERACTION WITH INSTRUCTOR

There were few interactions this term. Early on, I scheduled a brief meeting early in the semester to clarify the following: 1. What is expected this semester? 2. How can I best succeed this term? The take-away from this conversation left the impression that this was an open-ended course. I was assigned topics to demonstrate mastery or competency, and prove that understanding. I was to create my own problems, then solve them. This was very similar to the way the previous OOP course operated, with the exception that there was to be individual work along with the group work.

I was also left with the impression that I could deposit all my work until the end of the term. When I was contacted over email that there was concern about the lack of any submissions, I replied the following day with a plan on how to submit the work I had completed, and was still completing. I received great feedback from my first sample portfolio of topics that were complete, and had a great mindset to complete the rest sufficiently.

INTERACTION WITH TEAM

We had a great team this term. Although we lost three members early on, we persevered and progressed. We met weekly (some were twice per week) over Google Hangouts, recorded our meetings, and logged our agenda promptly afterwards. Any work that was performed or submitted was posed to our collective Google Drive.

On a personal note, my grandfather passed away late last term, and I had made prior arrangements to help support my grandmother during this term. I informed my team of the absence, but assured them that I would still be at the regularly scheduled meetings to participate. During that time, I was able to still contribute to the team over mobile Google Hangouts (amazing technology), and we completed a basic presentation of our home teaching project, along with the UML documents to support. Olan was kind enough to be my proxy and type out what I had proposed while I was communicating with him live. We then did our presentation, and again, I performed my part over mobile. Even though I was away from home, that does not excuse me from group work that depends on my participation.

I think of my teams in any course like I would in the real world, with similar expectations. If there is a deadline, and details are necessary, they need to be completed as expected. A proposal to a manager cannot be delayed because “I don’t get it”, or “I’ll be on vacation.”

We had great collaboration, and everyone played their roles well.

INTERACTION WITH CODING TOPICS

My topics were intentionally focused on creating and solving potential real-world problems. I currently work providing field on-site support for businesses and residence to perform repairs and installations. There are some aspects to the internal processes to my work that I find lacking, and I wanted to take a lot of these topics to create a potential opportunity to improve on what I am provided by my company.

I had a very difficult time with Hibernate, and getting it to implement within NetBeans. I understand the concept, but was unable to create a MySQL database to work with. This is the greatest area of opportunity I wish I could have worked with more to understand its implementation more thoroughly.

I had a great time learning about Client and Server Sockets. Networking has always fascinated me, and is a great emphasis of my studies wherever I find it. When I was able to run my server and client code, and have them communicate with each other, it was thrilling. Although it was only from the localhost, it opened my understanding to find other potential uses for it in the real world.

INTERACTION WITH SELF

I am going to write a few words regarding my interaction with myself this term. I do my best to maintain an academic integrity, and this counts more-so doing this program online instead of a formal classroom setting. This is still a new experience for me, and it can be so easy to fall victim to a mediocre habit of doing the minimum necessary.

My work is original. All topics, problems, their solutions, and diagrams were composed and coded by myself. Although some of it is simple, and others incomplete, they reflect my best efforts to demonstrate understanding. Lines are commented for explanation, and the code is easy for myself and another user to follow.

I did use a lot of external resources to learn these topics. During the day I work, and there is a lot of travel time involved. During the first weeks of the course, I spent a great deal of that travel time listening to YouTube tutorial videos on these topics (many of which with a heavy accent). This helped me use my time wisely to prepare for that evening when I would be taking academic time to code these topics.

CONCLUSION

I feel that I have given my best effort to the course. If I could change anything, it would be that I would ask for more help on those topics that I struggled with. I would have participated on the communities more frequently, and maintain a regular portfolio update to keep the instructor notified of my progress and opportunities.

Overall, I am pleased with the way things have progressed and concluded. These coding skills and teamwork experiences will go with me both in my current profession, and into the career that is to come.