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Team: Team Quaternary

Module: XBCAD7319

Lecturer: Ms. Mmaphuti Matau

Documentation: Self Reflection

**Introduction**  
  
A remarkable and eye-opening experience, Work Integrated Learning (WIL) has taught me the value of teamwork, effective communication, and unshakeable commitment—not only to the tasks at hand, but to the people and teams that enable success. The importance of a strong, cohesive team and the profound effects it may have, both inside an organisation and outside in its larger context, have been highlighted by this voyage.  
  
Navigating the dynamics of working with people who bring different viewpoints and approaches to problem-solving has been one of the most important lessons learnt. Although there may be difficulties because of this diversity, there are also opportunities for new ideas and perspectives. I've seen several situations when divergent opinions on a single topic have generated stimulating discussions that have produced stronger and more comprehensive results.  
  
Through these exchanges, I've learnt to value not just the practical aspects of cooperation but also the profound, intimate bonds that arise when working towards a common goal. These teams' relationships of trust and camaraderie have made co-developers into friends and created an atmosphere where achieving excellence is not only a goal but a shared endeavour.  
  
**Skills Learnt**

* **Time management** – to coordinate my team efficiently to ensure I reach my targets.
* **Crisis management/Advanced troubleshooting** – Establishing the github testing and syntax testing took a lot of time and brainstorming.
* **Communication skills** - to communicate to my fellow teammates any changes I made to the code.
* **Time management** - to reach deadlines on time and to ensure time is allocated accordingly to the tasks.

**Role in team**As a support developer and team delegate, I was instrumental in making sure the main development team got the tools and support they needed to effectively complete their primary tasks. Beyond merely helping, I also took up responsibilities from the project manager when difficulties emerged, reducing their workload and successfully resolving trouble spots.  
  
In order to maximise communication and job management, our method coupled a push-and-pull technique with a channel-down strategy. By ensuring that all developmental needs were satisfied, our hybrid approach produced a smooth workflow that helped us stay on track with our deliverables.

Additionally, I served as a dependable anchor for the project lead, acting as a reliable conduit for delegating tasks and responsibilities. I prioritized availability and efficiency, ensuring that any duties assigned to me were executed promptly and with precision. By maintaining this level of support, I contributed to a cohesive and efficient team dynamic, enabling the project led to focus on strategic oversight while the team worked toward achieving our shared goals.  
  
**Research, Technology and the presentation of information**The project lead's instructions were the source of most of the technology and research I used. To expand my knowledge and make sure I could contribute properly; I always took the initiative to do additional study when I came across new ideas.  
  
My main objective was to build a mutually beneficial connection with the project manager by serving as both a critical second opinion and a supportive collaborator. I added another level of verification to the suggested technology and tactics, providing different viewpoints as needed. This dynamic not only supported the choices made by the project manager, but it also assisted in pointing out any overlooked information or possible enhancements.

I made sure that my involvement strengthened the team's technical direction while promoting a climate of mutual trust and cooperation by closely aligning with the project lead's vision.

**Personal strengths and weaknesses**

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| Strengths | Weaknesses |
| **Proactive Research and Learning**   * I excelled in quickly grasping and researching new technologies or concepts, ensuring I was well-equipped to support the team. * ***Example****:* When presented with unfamiliar tools, I conducted thorough research to gain clarity and contribute effectively. | **Balancing Multiple Responsibilities**   * Juggling support tasks with my own duties occasionally resulted in delays or reduced focus on certain deliverables. * *Reason:* The dynamic nature of the role sometimes made it challenging to prioritize effectively. * *Improvement:* Develop stronger time-management strategies to better balance competing responsibilities. |
| **Strong Collaboration with Leadership**   * I formed a cohesive partnership with the project lead, acting as a trusted second opinion and providing feedback to enhance decision-making. * ***Example****:* Worked closely with the lead to validate technology choices and propose alternatives when needed. | **Tendency to Overcommit**   * I occasionally overpromised on deliverables, leading to unnecessary stress or extended working hours. * *Reason:* Aiming to exceed expectations and be a dependable support for the project lead. * *Improvement:* Set realistic expectations and communicate workload limitations transparently. |
| **Adaptability to Dynamic Roles**   * I seamlessly transitioned between tasks, stepping in to assist with challenging or high-priority issues as required. * ***Example****:* Took over problematic tasks delegated by the project lead to reduce bottlenecks and keep the project on track. |  |
| **Reliability and Availability**   * I consistently made myself available to the team and the project lead, ensuring tasks were executed promptly and effectively. * *Example:* Quickly addressed urgent needs, allowing the project lead to focus on broader responsibilities. |  |
| **Attention to Detail**   * I acted as a second pair of eyes for the project lead, identifying potential issues or gaps in implementation before they escalated. * *Example:* Provided meticulous reviews of the project’s technologies to ensure compatibility and optimal performance. |  |

**Stakeholder Relationship**  
Throughout the project, we made it a point to keep our interaction with our client open and professional. Although I didn't run into any major problems throughout our conversations, I think the client should have been more involved. The development team's efforts could have been even more in line with their vision if they had communicated better, especially when it came to clearly stating their specific demands and overall goals. This may have led to an even more customised solution and allowed for a deeper understanding of their needs.  
  
**Stakeholder Relationship**While I did not engage directly with the client on a frequent basis, I maintained a professional and transparent approach to ensure alignment with their expectations. I respected the boundaries of my role by relaying relevant updates and feedback through the project lead, ensuring that the team’s progress remained visible, and our decisions aligned with the client’s goals. While I believe there could have been more client engagement to clarify certain aspects of their requirements, I adapted by using the available information to guide the project effectively.

**Impact**As a supporting developer and delegate, my role had a direct impact on the success of our project. By ensuring that the development team received the support they needed and resolving tasks that posed challenges, I contributed to a smoother workflow and timely deliverables. My collaboration with the project lead provided an additional layer of quality assurance, ensuring that chosen technologies and strategies were well-aligned with our objectives. This not only enhanced our team’s efficiency but also reinforced the foundation for delivering a robust system tailored to the client’s needs. **Conclusion**Reflecting on my journey, I deeply value the friendships and connections I have formed along the way. This experience has been as much about personal growth as professional development, and I am proud of the relationships we’ve built as a team. The challenges we faced pushed me to adapt, learn, and grow, and I appreciate the camaraderie that made overcoming those challenges possible. While this journey was demanding at times, the collective effort and trust within the team have made it an unforgettable and rewarding experience.