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Documentation: Guilaume Swanevelder – Self Evaluation – Reflective Report

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# Introduction

Work Integrated Learning (WIL) bridges academic theories with practical workplace experience, that provided me with real-world insights and opportunities to apply knowledge. In my opinion it is an invaluable component in preparing me for the complexities of my future career, fostering the development of technical and interpersonal skills. Through this WIL experience, I gained exposure to the demands of software development, including collaboration, problem-solving, and the integration of academic concepts, particularly in leveraging the Next.js framework for building robust applications.

# Skills Learnt

During my WIL experience, I honed various skills that are pivotal for success in the IT industry:

## Industry-Specific Practices

* Technical Documentation: Prepared detailed documents, including architecture designs, security measures, domain models, Analysis Artifacts, DevOps Practices, Implementation and Non-Functional Requirements Based on ISO/IEC 12207. These skills were critical for creating deliverables such as system designs and implementation guides.
* Frontend Development: Utilised React to develop responsive user interfaces. This involved translating user requirements into functional and aesthetic design elements.
* Scrum Practices: Participated in regular stand-ups, sprint planning, and retrospectives, ensuring timely delivery of tasks.

## Interpersonal Communication Skills

* Collaboration: Engaged in team discussions and brainstorming sessions, contributing ideas for design and implementation strategies.
* Feedback Handling: Actively sought and incorporated feedback during debriefing sessions, improving the quality of my contributions.

## Management Skills

* Time Management: Balanced multiple deliverables, meeting deadlines for design documentation and development tasks.
* Problem-Solving: Resolved unexpected issues, such as debugging front-end integration errors, by employing critical thinking and research.

# Role in the Team

1. Team Dynamics: I worked in a cross-functional team with designated roles. I reported to our team leader, Damian Dare, and collaborated with other team members on frontend and backend tasks.
2. Leadership and Contributions:

* Responsibilities: Took ownership of assigned documentation and development tasks, ensuring they were completed on time.
* Support: Assisted team members facing challenges, particularly with frontend issues.

1. Conflict Resolution: Addressed and resolved minor concerns related to task overlaps by facilitating open discussions and agreeing on clear task allocations.

# Research, Technology, and Presentation of Information

1. Scenarios:

* Conducted research on integrating third-party libraries into the React frontend, ensuring compatibility with the Next.js framework (Next.js, 2024).
* Gathered best practices for implementing security measures like RBAC and JWT authentication.

1. Sources:

* Online resources: GitHub (Github, 2024), official documentation for Next.js (Next.js, 2024), Clerk (Clerk, 2024), and Supabase (Supabase, 2024).
* For the frontend development I leverage a combination of React official documentation, YouTube channel Travecy Media - React basics and project tutorials (Traversy Media, 2024) as well as some Udemy based React training material – React: The Complete Guide (Schwarzmüller, 2024)
* Internal documentation from the project repository.

1. Technology and Presentation:

* Utilised tools like Visual Studio Code (Visual Studio Code, 2024) for all our development, Figma (Figma, 2024) for mock-up designs, PlantUML (PlantText, 2024) for infographics and diagrams, Discord (Discord, 2024) for communication and Trello (Trello, 2024) for managing our workflows.
* Presented findings via detailed technical documentation and PowerPoint slides, ensuring clarity and usability for the team and stakeholders.

# Personal Strengths and Weaknesses

1. Strengths:

* Attention to Detail: Delivered precise and comprehensive documentation.
* Collaboration: Worked effectively in team settings, contributing to a positive dynamic.
* Problem-Solving: Quickly addressed technical challenges during development.
* Adaptability: Adjusted to evolving project requirements with ease.
* Commitment: Consistently met deadlines and supported team members.

1. Weaknesses:

* Public Speaking: Found it challenging to present complex technical concepts during meetings.
* Time Estimation: Occasionally underestimated the time needed for thorough testing.

1. Improvements:

* Explore public speaking guidance through YouTube channels such as How to Practice a Speech or Presentation (Lyon, 2024) to build presentation skills and confidence.
* Use project management tools like Trello to better estimate and track time.

# Stakeholder Relationship

1. Relationship with WIL Coordinator:

* Worked effectively with the coordinator, leveraging their guidance to meet deliverables.
* Occasionally faced challenges with delayed feedback mainly because of the official email communication channel.

1. Improvements:

* Establishing regular check-ins to improve communication.
* Preparing concise updates to streamline discussions.

# Impact

1. Contributions:

* Enhanced project efficiency by delivering well-structured documentation.
* Ensured the frontend aligned with user requirements, improving the client experience.

1. Positive Impact:

* Facilitated the team’s ability to meet project goals.
* Provided valuable insights during planning sessions, leading to innovative solutions.

# Conclusion

The WIL experience was a transformative journey that bridged theoretical knowledge with practical application. Through this process, I developed essential technical, interpersonal, and managerial skills, preparing me for a successful career in software development. The challenges faced and the accomplishments achieved have shaped my professional identity and reinforced my passion for technology.

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