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Self-relfection report

Introduction

Work-integrated learning (WIL) provides an invaluable opportunity to apply academic knowledge in practical, real-world scenarios. Even when the project is simulated, like in my case, WIL offers a chance to engage with industry-relevant tools, develop key technical skills, and build confidence in professional environments. This hands-on experience is critical for preparing students for future careers by enabling them to gain a deeper understanding of industry practices and professional collaboration.

Skills Learnt

1. Industry-Specific Practices:

- Web Development Skills (HTML, CSS, JavaScript): During my WIL experience, I worked on developing a simulated payment checkout page for a skills company, focusing on the front-end development. I was responsible for the structure, styling, and interactivity of the page using HTML, CSS, and JavaScript. This practice helped me gain familiarity with key web development practices commonly used in the industry.

- Technologies Used: I used Visual Studio Code as my main code editor and *Android Studio* for the integration of functionalities. Additionally, I worked with local storage to dynamically display the final invoice amount on the simulated page.

2. Interpersonal Communication Skills:

- *Brainstorming Sessions:* In our team, we held brainstorming sessions where we discussed design ideas and the functionalities we wanted to implement. These sessions were helpful in sharing ideas and ensuring that we aligned our individual work to contribute to the project as a whole.

- Feedback and Briefing Sessions; I participated in regular feedback sessions with the *team leader*, who provided constructive advice on improving my work, such as enhancing the page's usability and ensuring that it was responsive across different devices.

3. Management Skills:

- Time Management: I needed to balance the various technical tasks of coding, testing, and revising to meet deadlines set by the project scope. This required effective time management to ensure smooth progression through the stages of development.

- Problem-Solving: During the development of the simulated checkout page, I encountered challenges such as bugs in the JavaScript functionality and issues with responsive design. I had to troubleshoot these problems to ensure the page functioned as intended.

Role in the Team

- Team Dynamic and Reporting: I worked closely with other team members who focused on different aspects of the project, such as back-end functionalities and design elements. My primary responsibility was the front-end development, but I collaborated frequently with others to ensure consistency and cohesion in the project.

- Contribution to Team Success : My main contribution was in designing and coding the front-end of the checkout page, ensuring it was both functional and visually appealing. I also contributed ideas during the brainstorming sessions that helped shape the overall design and user flow.

- Handling Conflict and Queries: Although there were no major conflicts, we did have some differing opinions on design aesthetics. Through open discussions, we were able to resolve these differences and come to a consensus. Additionally, I assisted my team members with front-end questions and provided clarity on implementing JavaScript for dynamic functionality.

Research, Technology, and the Presentation of Information

- Research Scenarios:

- For the simulated checkout page, I researched JavaScript libraries to streamline the process of form validation and payment integration. I also explored CSS frameworks to improve the responsiveness and visual design of the page.

- The information I gathered was sourced from MDN Web Docs, Stack Overflow, and various web development tutorials online.

- Technology Used: I utilized Visual Studio Code for writing the code and Chrome Developer Tools to debug and test the page. Additionally, I used git for version control during the project to track changes and collaborate with the team

- Presentation of Information: I presented the information I researched in the form of code, integrating JavaScript libraries and CSS frameworks into the project. My role also involved presenting the front-end code to the team for feedback and ensuring that it met the requirements of the simulated project.

Personal Strengths and Weaknesses

- Strengths:

  - Problem-Solving: I was able to quickly identify and resolve coding issues, such as fixing bugs in the JavaScript logic for form submission.

  - Attention to Detail: I made sure that the design elements were consistent and that each form field was labeled clearly for usability.

  - Time Management: I effectively prioritized my tasks, ensuring that I met deadlines and delivered quality work.

  - Adaptability: I was able to quickly learn new tools and technologies, such as JavaScript libraries for form validation, which helped improve the page functionality.

  - Collaboration: I worked well within the team, contributing my ideas and assisting others when needed.

- Weaknesses:

  - Overwhelm with Complexity: At the beginning of the project, I found the integration of JavaScript with HTML and CSS more complex than anticipated. It took time for me to understand how these components interacted, especially with dynamic elements like invoice amounts.

  - Perfectionism: I spent too much time fine-tuning minor details in the design and functionality, which sometimes delayed my progress.

- Improvement Plan: Moving forward, I plan to improve my understanding of JavaScript and focus on more efficient problem-solving approaches. I will also work on balancing my attention to detail with maintaining a steady workflow to meet deadlines.

Relationship

- WIL Coordinator/Team Leader Relationship :My relationship with the team leader was positive. They provided clear instructions and helpful feedback throughout the project.

  - What Worked Well: The guidance from the team leader was valuable, especially during the feedback sessions, which helped me refine my work and improve the overall user experience of the checkout page.

  - Room for Improvement: More frequent check-ins with the team leader could have been beneficial for clarifying expectations early on, which would have helped reduce confusion during certain stages of development.

Impact

- Contributions to the Organization* Even though the project was a simulated task, my work on developing the payment checkout page contributed to the overall learning experience of the team. I helped improve the design and functionality of the page, which allowed the team to practice using real-world web development tools and processes.

- Positive Impact: My front-end development work helped ensure that the checkout page was user-friendly and well-structured. This simulated project allowed the team to explore essential web development concepts and gain valuable practical experience.

Conclusion

In conclusion, my WIL experience, although based on a simulated project, provided me with meaningful exposure to the technical and collaborative aspects of web development. I gained hands-on experience in coding, troubleshooting, and managing time within a project, and I learned how to work effectively within a team. The experience highlighted both my strengths and areas for growth, particularly in the realm of JavaScript and balancing perfection with deadlines. Overall, this opportunity helped me build the technical and interpersonal skills I will need in my future career and gave me confidence in my ability to tackle real-world projects.