

Reviewing my first term at university

COMP150 - CPD Report

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1 Introduction

In this document I will be talking about my experiences in the first term at university and skills that i wish to improve on throughout the year ahead of me. Although i currently do not have a strict career path in mind for my future within the games industry I am very interested in taking part in the creation of games in general. The skills that I will be talking about in this review are academic writing structuring, sharing and critiquing work, completing academic research effectively and further development of programming knowledge.

2 Presentation skills

Having a programming job in the games industry requires allot more social ability than one would think. Becoming more confident in presenting work to my cohorts will help me become more sociable in a business environment and give me more of an edge over my fellow programmers searching for post Graduate roles. Being able to communicate about work related tasks efficiently will help increase my productivity in a work place in the future. I believe that our pillars presentation was lacking heavily in talking

about the funding of the project itself In order to improve my presentation skills for the following term I will be periodically reviewing material instructing about tried and tested presentation techniques.

3 Sharing and critiquing work

During our group project for this term I have found that being able to communicate effectively in a team environment is very important. Especially when it comes to critiquing lack of or lower quality work but being constructive enough that it doesn't strongly offend the creator of that particular workload. I feel that issues with critiquing work correctly affected my teams Comp-150 project greatly as multiple members of the team (including myself) had problems expressing the difficulties we were having with the work at hand which slowed the project down to a halt at times. Being able to find these issues and working on them as a team from a earlier stage would have greatly increased the productivity in the group. Continuing on from this project I will make a conscious effort to increase productivity within the team by encouraging issues and team members concerns to be talked about in our regular weekly meet-ups. Hopefully doing this will help our work flow and increase my team working skill set in the next term.

4 Academic researching skills

I've always felt that coming into university my biggest weakness lies not with programming itself but with academic writing at the university level as independent research has always been very hard work for me throughout higher education. A good example of this is the two pieces of academic assignments that we have been given to complete for this term in comp-150 and comp-110. The comp 150 essay about the subject of agile development in the game industry has been really difficult to create a question for. Although a small part of this was because although I have no issues with using agile I personally don't

find it a compelling subject, it's mostly because of my lack of skill in using references correctly in the structure of my work and relating it to the question that I have posed. To increase my ability at creating academic essays I believe I need to organise a block of spare time in the week to dedicate to academic research and look back at how I have improved in the following term.

5 Developing Programming knowledge

I imagine that it is somewhat normal for a new student such as myself to be a novice in most programming languages by the time they start their lectures at university. My previous background in Java at college has helped me in understanding basic principles in the first term of uni and I am slowly grasping the differences between that and python, becoming more experienced in programming python efficiently. There is allot more that i would have loved to add to our python project but my lack of knowledge in python has prevented me in doing so. To increase the rate in which i improve my programming skills I should probably look at more of the reading materials that have been recommended by the teachers for my current modules.

6 Conclusion

Overall I believe out of all of my issues in the skills highlighted throughout this document that my team critiquing skills probably need the most work over the next term at university. Luckily all of the issues I have wrote about can be worked on and heavily improved while moving onwards in the year. My academic research skills and my general programming knowledge should steadily increase as a lot of assignments should require use of both of these skills. Sharing and critiquing work is a lifelong skill that i will be putting a lot of spare time into in the next term with the next team project I will be working on. This will hopefully result in a way more productive team schedule

throughout term 2.

References