**Sam Ericksen Individual Capstone Assessment**

In my opinion, my senior design project is about showing what I have learned over my five years in the program. It is about showcasing what I have accomplished both in the classroom as well as on co-op. It is about demonstrating that I am able to work in a group to create something new and interesting. It is about proving to myself that I have truly grown over my years at university. It’s to show employers what it is that I am capable of. But most importantly, my senior design is there to symbolize my accomplishments in my years of schooling, my hard work and dedication to my discipline, my understanding of what it means to be a computer scientist and an engineer, and how much I and my team can do when we put our heads together to take on a new, and challenging, problem.

Since our project will entail designing a piece of software from start to finish, we will use our knowledge from Software Engineering (3093C) in helping us design and plan from the start. Our knowledge of data structures from our Data Structures (2028C) will be absolutely beneficial in our designs. From our knowledge of different programming languages from our Programming Languages (3003) we can better decide what language will make the project more easy to handle. Our understanding of mathematics obtained over the years, especially from our Discrete Computational Structures (2071) class. It shouldn’t be left out that we will still need to have a solid understanding of programming fundamentals acquired in our Computer Science 1 (1021C) class. All of these skills and more acquired in our years of study at the University of Cincinnati will be of great help to us for our senior capstone.

My first co-op experience was one where I worked at a company called ITI as a Software QA/Product Support Intern. I learned various things about the process of validating bug fixes. I was also able to learn about how starting early with a test framework can save a lot of time rather than having to build one up after things have already gotten off the ground. The scale of a test framework can get out of hand quickly if things aren’t done early in the process. My other co-op experience was at Northrop Gruman Xetron where I worked with a team to accomplish various different tasks. It was nice working in the team environment as I was able to develop my interpersonal communication skills as well as my ability to work as a part of a team. Overall, I learned many different things during my experiences both hard and soft skills that will help complete our senior design project.

I’m excited to complete my senior design project because not only is it my last class I need to obtain my degree, but because it will be the capstone of my undergraduate career. I’m excited to work on a project over the course of the term and year as most of my other classes didn’t tend to deal with projects on such a long time scale. It will be fun working with friends I have studied with over the course of the last several years. It will be necessary for us to do our research before we begin any of the actual coding for the project. Deciding what it is exactly we want to do and how to do it. We will also need to come up with a road map for how we want things to progress.

We are expecting to have a working app by the end of the year. We are hoping to accomplish the completion of a working smartphone app on android and/or iOS. I will self-evaluate my success based on the number of and complexity of my commits to the repository. I will also be self-evaluating based upon my ability to help the team make design decisions. We will know we are done once the app is in working order. We will know we have done a good job if we have satisfied most if not all of our users requests.