

Comp340 CPD

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Introduction

University is finally coming to the end. The amalgamation of 3 years worth of academic study is impressive, but this is but a stepping stone into the future. In this report I will be discussing 5 key skills from different domains that have been my weakest in this semester, and how I am going to improve on them with the use of SMART goals. This last CPD report will be by far the most important, as skills identified here will surely help me achieve my future goals.

1 Affective domain

One of the most recurring problems I have had in the past and in this semester, is the lack of identifying and structuring of work and personal problems. Because of the combination of personal and university work it is hard to distinguish what exactly is causing me so much pain at the time. This has effected my work drastically as at times I would be staring at a piece of work completely stuck on what to do. I would allow myself to become so idle that work came to a standstill, and I would not do or want to do anything about it. For myself to improve in this matter I will need to be able to identify, plan out, and act out accordingly. Using a diary of some kind, each weekend I will sit and identify the problems of my week and write down a list of them in this diary. I will then be able to analyze these points and create plans accordingly, such as a piece of work I am struggling on, I would make sure to plan some time to learn about it. Or if a certain problem at home is happening, adequately address it that week before it starts to effect work. At the end of the week I will be able to then review the diary to see which ones I have completed and see how I am feeling afterwards. The reason this skill is important is because if I were to go into a postgraduate degree, there will be a bigger workload and I will not be able to have time to not be working consistently.

2 Interpersonal domain

The lack of communication I had with my group game teammates greatly effected my work this semester. More specifically communicational agile practices. After the initial burst of work from myself I was able to make a couple obstacles.

However, after missing a week, when I came back there was little for me to do as the small parts had been done. The main programmers were working on these things, and I was lost on what to do. Actively communicating with my team would ultimately solve this problem, though that cannot be possible all the time. Properly involving myself in Jira and the slack channel each Monday to find the correct things to work on will set clear goals for the week. Also each product owner meeting, I will also be able to communicate that I want things to do and that I will be willing to work through things even if it is at a slower pace. Becoming more efficient at communicating to receive tasks will help in future group projects. This will be especially true at post graduate where group projects are more complex and require great task sharing.

3 Dispositional domain

This skill is by far the most important and also the one that I failed to do consistently through out the past 3 years. Setting out clear plans and work schedules. By not having goals for the week or plans on what to do I was always just doing things when they needed to be done, this meant that work was never done to a good quality as it was rushed or just not enough work was done on it. Structuring my time well and having set goals for the week will increase my productivity immensely. By using a monthly and weekly Eisenhower priority matrix, it will let me identify the priority of each assignment. Once this is done I will be able to put the majority of my time on urgent tasks and divide up the remaining time on non urgent tasks to have a consistent work flow. By repeating this every week I can visually and systematically control my workload and time. This skill is the most important as any future work will rely on me being able to manage my workload and identify what is most important to do as to not fall behind.

4 Cognitive domain

Building up my programming skills and knowledge slowed down a lot this semester, this is something that I need to work on to continue improving myself. When completing assignments, I was mostly completing them to get grades rather than spending time learning and in turn made it harder to get these grades. By committing time to taking programming jobs on Upwork, it will allow me to improve my skills in a multitude of ways. Each new job I take on Upwork will force me into a situation where I will have to learn something new to complete the job. By taking jobs it will push me to learn on the spot new things rather than learning new things in my own time where I will be less motivated and time bound to do so. Not only will this improve my portfolio, it will also give me a range of new skills I can take into either post graduate or game development.

5 Procedural domain

Data processing and analysis played a big part in my final semester, however I lacked in the knowledge and best practices for it. This meant that when I came to doing data analysis on my dissertation I had a really hard time which put me far behind with little work to show for it. This will become a key skill I will need to work on if I were to get into a post graduate degree, as my next big piece of work will need a much higher level of this. To better myself at this skill I will be setting myself tasks to process and analyze data found online every 2 weeks, this will start off with few results under 20, then add more the next week and the after with extra conditions at a later data. By following the best practices while completing these, I will be able to develop the skills and tools needed for a higher quality of processing and analysis.

Conclusion

The main theme of improvements I need to make is the constant planning and weekly task setting of the work needed to be done. By reviewing and identifying my work load, I will be able to create a work schedule that highlights the key pieces of work that need to be worked on. Because of my lack of insight into what I need to be working on this skill alone will help me improve on the other stated skills by building up good habits of planning and time management. Hopefully I will be able to build upon these skills during the summer months so that when I decide what to do, I will have the skills to excel in it.