

## **Secure Software Development - Team Assignment Reflection**

This assignment afforded me the opportunity to work in a collaborative way with my fellow students for the first time, something which I found myself excited to do. Having recently entered a professional developer environment as part of my career, I was curious to see how others may work to produce the design documents for a project compared to how my team at work does this. I was also curious to see some of the aspects of design that I don't have much involvement with, such as requirements gathering.

One thing that my team did well is divide up the work into manageable chunks for each person to do, with the strengths and interests of each member being used to ensure that the work was of high quality. I was assigned tasks relating to risk assessments and data security, an aspect of computer science that I find exceptionally interesting. During the project, we met on a weekly basis to share updates on progress and peer review the work of others, with documents being shared as completed via a group chat. These are methods I have taken into my work environment, as I have instituted weekly update meetings with my colleagues to look at how we are working. We previously did this in monthly sprint reviews, however after completing this assignment I discovered that weekly meetings allow for issues to quickly be identified and resolved. The ability to peer review the work of the team was also useful, as we each come from different backgrounds. For example, we initially settled on creating an application for a school due to a team member working in one and having experience of these systems as a customer, so we were able to utilise their feedback to help develop a more efficient and accurate system. This also gave me a deeper appreciation of customer engagement, and drove me to spend some time with our business analyst at work to shadow some of this work that he does, which I hope will make me a more effective developer.

There were some challenges during the assignment, specifically relating to the system we wanted to design. While each member of the team having different backgrounds and experience allowed us to be fluid, it also resulted in some members of the team trying to create a design product which not all team members would be able to develop. I challenged this, ensuring that the deliverable could

actually be completed on time for the individual part of the assignment. There was some pushback on this, but we concluded on a system which carries out all required functions but can also be built in a simple and secure way. This level of assertiveness is something I have carried through to my work. As a junior developer, I have felt more confident in asserting my skills to our solutions architects so that they know what to expect of my work.

Overall, I found this group work experience to be useful both academically and professionally. Being able to work as a team is core to working in computing, so I feel grateful for this opportunity.