Reflection - Development Team Project: Project Report

This was one of the first opportunities I have had to work as part of a team during my studies. The assignment involved drafting a proposal for a project that would create a computer as a deliverable. We worked as a small team of four people, each with different backgrounds, skills and abilities, which led to interesting discussions and outcomes during the assignment. After reflecting on the work done during this assignment, I have been able to draw a number of conclusions that will influence both my further studies and my professional career.

Upon being assigned to groups, we agreed to keep in touch via a message chat, along with meetings each week where we could discuss progress, assign tasks and challenge each other in a constructive way. This is something that we do within my professional working environment, and as such came naturally to me. Going into each meeting, I aimed to ensure that all members were able to speak freely and bring ideas to the table, with everyone being clear on their tasks for the week upon concluding a meeting. Again, this mirrors my professional work, so there was evidence to suggest that it's an effective method of planning work. Along with this, other members of the group suggested having a shared drive for work, so everyone can edit documents in a live format. This worked well for us, and this is something I have taken into my professional environment, making use of applications such as SharePoint to allow us to do this.

There were some difficulties initially in splitting up work, as some members of the group had a high level of experience in project management. This led to them naturally being eager to take control of the work and run through this independently. Because of this, I did find myself struggling to assert myself and find where I could contribute. I ended up taking a more "consultant" type roll, reviewing the work of the team, providing feedback and writing the conclusion towards the end that brought together all of the work done. I felt comfortable with this, and it allowed me to use my critical skills in a way which contrasts my day to day work as a developer.

Another difficulty we encountered was the differences in knowledge between people in the team. As previously stated, some members of the group had a high level of

professional experience, which sometimes led to some members being left behind a little. One way I aimed to resolve this was by ensuring that all parties were happy before an agreement on something was made, with members providing evidence and information regarding this that others can build on. This is something I have been doing in my professional work, as I have recently started working with some work placement students. They come to us with less knowledge than experienced members of staff, and as such I have been taking time during our work together to ensure that they fully understand all parts of the work. Without this, they are being set up to fail.

Overall, I enjoyed the group assignment and found it a good way to both display some of my skills and build new ones, all of which will allow me to become a more well rounded professional.