SOLIDitech Work Experience Program Report

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Introduction

This was the second time I have taken part in the WEP in Cape Town. It is always a pleasure to come and get experience and talk to the people working at SOLID. I don't know exactly how much I have learnt as it is a learning experience that teaches you so many lessons in many areas.

Company Overview

SOLIDitech is a company that provides a business management tool which has a focus on ISP businesses. SOLID is a package that has all the main components required for business management. SOLIDitech then tailors SOLID to the needs of each business and then trains the company how to use SOLID. SOLIDitech also provides support for these companies.

SOLIDitech's company structureis as follows: In development: Development managers oversee multiple teams. Team/Project leads oversee multiple developers and QAs. SOLIDitech also has a marketing department who are responsible for graphic design, organizing events and much, much more.

Team Structure

I had the pleasure of working in Team Q-KON. The team comprised of myself and Ryan with Manuel as our Development manager. Ryan I assume is the team lead and I was the intern. Our team is a part of the ASP division which is used for smaller clients who require less development.

Projects and tasks

I was lucky enough to start working on a fresh instance of SOLID. I had many little jobs to do to get the instance up and running. I created a PriceList module that might be used to control the pricing of Q-KONS products across the various countries and organizations under it. I created 2 services for the products, 1 VSAT and 1 Hardware service. I edited vm's for financial document preview's and then I inserted the pdf, vm's and the logos into the install file. I added a field to the MasterAccount that stores the organisationId and added 2 fields to Organization to store the currencyId and an associated MasterAccountId used for billing the ISPs. I then edited the capture pages for both to capture these new fields and added validation for them. I created an online sign up webpage for customers to capture their details. This page created a new MasterAccount and a new quote for the products they had selected. I did many more small data correction/bug fixing/investigating jobs.

Lessons learnt

I have learnt many things during this program but the biggest lessons would be: Problem solving, not being afraid to ask for help and good coding practices.

Goals achieved

The main achievements of this work would be gaining very important experience and knowledge about this industry from my colleagues. It has also firmly proven that I have chosen the right career path for me.

Advantages and Disadvantages

Pros:

Knowledge - The program makes to gain knowledge at a much faster pace than any other form of learning.

Experience – The program gives you very valuable experience in a kind/friendly environment.

Money – The program pays its interns well which is a bonus for getting the experience.

Connections – I have met many people that were awesome to talk to, sharing knowledge and made the whole experience great.

Lunch – Nandos Thursday

Cons:

I wouldn't say there are many cons that would be specific to working at SOLID.

Suggestions

The only criticism I have is setting up the instance still takes too long and needs a better setup guide. Although now I am confident I could do it as I have done it twice already. I can suggest maybe making a SOLID frontend tutorial that takes people through basic tasks in SOLID and a development tutorial that takes people through a basic description of the structure of SOLID(concepts such as overriding core classes in the project were not explained until this time around) doing basic tasks like adding a module, finding and editing a jsp/class, writing a patch, etc...

Thank You

Thank you for giving me this opportunity once again. It was great to come back and say hello to some familiar faces and some new ones.