Project Reflection – EL CAFECITO Coffee Shop Mobile App Prototype

This project involved designing a mobile app prototype for a coffee shop ordering system. The goal was to create a simple, user-friendly interface that would allow customers to browse the menu, select drink sizes, add items to their cart, and complete their orders efficiently. The prototype was developed as part of the IT Professional Practice module, which focuses on practical application of design principles and professional presentation.

To create the prototype, I used Figma. It allowed me to work with screens, layout structures, and interactive elements to simulate how a real mobile app would function. The app includes key screens such as login, menu, cart, size selection, and an order confirmation page. These represent a basic but complete user journey from opening the app to completing a purchase.

During the process, I learned a lot about UI/UX principles, especially consistency, spacing, navigation flow, and visual hierarchy. I became more comfortable aligning elements properly and using colour and typography to guide the user's attention. I also learned how important it is to think from the user's perspective, what they need to see first, how quickly they can complete a task, and what information should be highlighted.

One of the challenges I faced was ensuring that the design remained clean and not overcrowded. It was also challenging to create a logical flow that made sense for a first-time user. At first, some screens felt confusing, but by reorganising elements and simplifying the layout, I achieved a more intuitive design.

Overall, this project improved my confidence in UI/UX design and my ability to use Figma effectively. If I had more time, I would add more features such as payment options, order tracking, and a loyalty system. I would also run user testing to gather feedback and refine the prototype further.

This project helped me understand how design, technology, and the user experience all come together in professional IT practice.