

IT Architecture

Individual report

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Introduction

In this document I am going to explain how my experience has been during the workshop of IT Architecture. To explain this I will talk about some topics:

- The functioning of the team as a whole
- My role in the group
- The three C's: Context, communication and common sense
- Problems and triumphs
- My personal development during the workshop

The functioning of the team as a whole

The coursework was going to be hard because we were going to stay working on it for eighteen hours separated in two days, so, It was very important for us to respect each other opinion and work together as a group to get the target as easy as possible.

At first we didn't know each other but we start working so fast on the problem given. Sometimes is recommended to set what is going to be the role of each member in the group but we didn't do that, I think we started to work directly in solving the problem and it works so fine.

Every opinion was respected in the group and all of us gave our opinion to the group, and all the opinions were taken into account and we didn't need a person to tell us when was our turn to speak because since the first moment we respect each other.

Finally we got a very good solution for the problem given. I would be lying if I said that we were working hard every moment because there were moments in which one of us was tired but the rest of the group was working hard so that person had to continue with the job.

My role in the group

As I have said nobody in the group has a determined role so neither I had it. I didn't know my group mates at first and at first it was so difficult for me to give my opinions because I was a little bit shy. But that was just the first 30 minutes, then I started to support the group like the others.

I like architecture so much and moreover I like consulting too, in fact, I think that I would like to have a job as an architecture consultant, so that, my most interesting contribution for the group was given in the architecture diagram.

My group was working on it and making a diagram based in the diagram given in the coursework material. I was seeing what they were doing in the board, but I didn't agree with it, so I give my idea and everybody thought that was a good view to start the architecture so we worked on it to get the final solution.

This solution was found working so hard because I think that it was the main diagram in which the rest were going to be based, and it was going to give us an overview of the whole system, that's why we tried to complete it as much as possible, moreover with the ideas given by Krzysztof and Soum, and the details given by Han and Jonathan and the final horrible questions of Anastasia, we finally got a really good architecture diagram and a good point to start working in the new system.

Context

I think that context is based in two things:

- The principal ideas and requirements of the system.
- An overview of the system.

Context is needed to continue working in the problem so at first we tried to set the principal ideas and the requirements of the system. To get this we read and re-read the document with all the information of the system.

We had some questions but we had the opportunity to solve them asking the IBM people who were acting as GIKA workers.

With the information achieved we select the main ideas and the principal requirements in which our system were going to be based

With these ideas and requirements we drew some diagrams to have a more visual way of the overview of the current system.

Communication

I know is recommended to have a person to say who has to speak and when he has to speak but in our group, as I have said, we hadn't this kind of person we all the communication were based in hearing what the others were saying and speak when we had a good thing to say.

I know that is difficult to get this working and get to the target because many people want to force the others to think like them but there weren't a person like that in our group.

I usually prefer to talk instead of staying without saying anything, but in this case I did the contrary because this was the first time I really work in group with english people, so I stayed waiting for the others to explain their ideas and then give my opinion to complete what they have said.

Common sense

When you have to work in a problem you have to use more than theory because every problem is different to the others so there is no one good solution written for all of them, this is why you have to use common sense to achieve a good solution.

But I think that common sense is useless if you don't use it in company of theory, so I think that the correct way to work to solve a problem is using the theory with common sense.

Problems and triumphs

I think that the most important triumphs come from the worse problems.

We had some problems in the architecture diagram because much information should be considered to draw the whole diagram and many questions appear and sometimes we thought that we were not going to get to a solution, moreover I think that we were a little bit confused and at first we included the operational overview in the architecture overview.

Finally we got to a solution because the whole team was working so hard to solve complete this diagrams to have an overview of the entire system.

We had another problem with the presentation, I think that in the first one we were a little bit nervous and we hadn't prepared it so much because we didn't have enough time, that's why in my opinion the first presentation wasn't good.

But for the second one we were working on it for hours answering all the possible questions and improving our system so much, that's why I think that in the second presentation we looked so confident we were capable of answering all the questions with good answers.

My personal development during the workshop

As I have been said this has been my first time working in a team with english people and I have finished the coursework so happy because I have been able to work better than I expected at first.

I have learned so much from IBM team because they have doing this kind of things since years and they know what are they talking about and what companies expect from an architecture consultant, so I am glad I had this opportunity to work with a good team and with the help of the IBM team.

Moreover I think this is a good opportunity to practice with all the theory we have learned during the lectures because I think the best way to remember all the knowledge is practising.

In conclusion I think that this is a very good opportunity for students of computer science and it should be done every year.