

## Individual Reflective Essay

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I am a second-year computer science and business student. I loved working on this group project as it was my first-time experiencing working with a group of lads from second and third years, as well as meeting with a software engineer from the company we are working on the project for as he was checking on us every week and giving advice about the project. I really appreciate this opportunity as it gives me an idea of working in companies within a group. I developed so many skills such as communication, time management and leadership as I got to experience how 3rd years are leading us so I can lead people in the future. Living this experience was very helpful as I was put under pressure sometimes but managed to submit my tasks as this often happens in real life. We were 4 second years and three third years; our team was divided into 3 groups: Project Under Test, Test Runner and Docker/Kubernetes. I was on the 3rd group, which is Docker/Kubernetes. Our task was to create a generic service that will be able to take any executable, package it up to a docker container, run tests and collect the results in a test file.

This module taught me a lot about teamwork. More than any other, this module has shown me the most about what working on a project after college will entail. I had previously completed some teamwork assignments in college, but not on this scale. I believe that the client component of this module was beneficial since it taught me how to connect with, request things from, and answer to people for whom I will be working, simulating the real-world context of developing software for a team. For collaboration, we used GitHub, and for communication, we used Zoom meetings. I was unfamiliar with GitHub, so we had to learn how to use it effectively before contributing any work. I learned this helpful skill because GitHub is widely used in the real world for code collaboration on projects, and it is considered an industry standard.

Working in a collaborative project team was a vital point of our success and delivery work at the time, as our team leader always organised 2 team meetings weekly. The first one was with the software engineer and the other one was to ask questions and deliver the task we were assigned to. We were very organised and did not have any disagreements as we assigned the tasks fairly. The third year managed the group well and helped us if we were stuck or had any problems regarding the software development part. My team's collaboration on the project was effective, in my opinion. First and foremost, the project's planning was extremely efficient. We designed a clear plan and created a calendar for every team member to follow during the initial meeting, which helped everyone to stay on track and deliver pieces of work on time. We also determined that breaking down each person's task into smaller chunks would be preferable to complete the job at the last minute. This gave us enough time to double-check the work and make any necessary revisions. As well as it was helpful to be able to consult my teammates if I had any queries or worries about my task. Finally, I believe that the task allowed each team member to demonstrate his or her strengths while also broadening our understanding of workplace communication techniques utilised by Rapid7.

Working in a group provided me with an interesting opportunity to gain new skills and increase my ability to collaborate. For me, one of the most significant changes between working alone and working in a group was the requirement for group decision-making. Working in a group necessitates the participation of all members in decision-making. I learned the importance of effective leadership in teamwork while working on this project. Aaron, our group leader, worked extremely hard to ensure

that everyone turned in their work on time while also staying extremely nice and supportive of all team members.

Another thing I've learned about teamwork is that everyone has their own skills and shortcomings. Some Students are simply more talented than others in particular areas. For maximum efficiency, our team leader assigned us to work in areas where we are strong and confident.

During this module, we encountered two main issues. The first one was finding a time when all the group members were free for example, I am a computer science and business student and sometimes I have lectures same time computers science students are free and same go for them so It was so hard to find a free time that suits us but we managed to find times in which we were all free in which were rare but we still managed to go to meetings and deliver the tasks. Sometimes, when we had client meetings but had lectures simultaneously, we let the group's free lads attend and inform us of what was discussed in that meeting. The second issue that was blocking our progress sometimes was learning new technologies while having college work and assignments. I was assigned to set up dockers and Kubernetes environments which was a lot of reading and learning hours and having assignments and college work at the same time was so much stress, but at the end of the day we managed to cross that obstacle and deliver our tasks on time by using time management.

I am proud of myself and my contributions to this project because I functioned under extreme stress and pressure and delivered my tasks on time. It was a challenge and I love challenges and this one was one of the hardest challenges to overcome and experience so I am proud of myself. I was able to contribute on many things such as the division of tasks, the plan of delivering our tasks, presentations, and the coding part of this project by setting up dockers and Kubernetes with my teammate Aaron. I am happy that I had the opportunity to work and share this experience with other lads from different courses and years, which helped me gain knowledge and skills.

I realised that I could work better with a group than individually as I was asking questions and getting the answers that I needed, which helped me deliver my tasks on time. I also realised that when you put the hours into working on something or learning new technology, you will get the knowledge you need, whether you are going to use it now or in the future. Finally, I learned that I love learning and trying new technologies, which helped me work and deliver the tasks on time.

In conclusion, I really enjoyed this module as it allowed us to work within a team combined of 2nd and third years. I learned a lot of interesting technologies such as GitHub, Dockers, Kubernetes, and Python. These technologies are valuable and widely used, and they may open new job prospects for me in the future. I learned real-life skills such as leadership and time management, which will help me in my career and next year's software engineering project module. The concept of teamwork was particularly enjoyable for me because I enjoy interacting with others and exchanging ideas and experiences. I've learned a lot about how real-world software project development works, which will come in handy in the future. I'm looking forward to working on next year's software engineering project from a management perspective, where I aim to learn even more skills in software development than I did this year.

