CE101 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

INDIVIDUAL REFELECTIVE STATEMENT COVER SHEET

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Team id: H

Word count: 1500

**Reflective Statement**

The professional development module required us to create a product that would scrape specific websites for data, analyse and produce a report based on this. My group decided to create a system that scraped Hotel review sites, and presented a summarisation of the reviews and ratings on a website. In my group there was: Emmanuel (the team leader); Ted (the project manager); Simas, Wei, Jeffrey and myself (as product specialists). I chose the role of product specialist because I and Simas both had the most experience coding and were the most enthusiastic about the project. I volunteered myself to create the website using HTML and PHP, because I had the most experience with these languages. I chose not to be a team leader because I was not confident enough to take control and responsibility for the team. My role changed during the project, I expected to be working on only the website, however I helped create the databases and join the two systems. I had to take control near the end with Simas, because the rest of the team input lacked and we had many jobs to complete. I had to designate jobs to members and ended up writing half of the team report with Simas because other team members did not understand the systems workings.

As a product specialist I contributed a lot to the project. Using the Bootstrap framework, I created the entire website [1, 9, 10]. The system relied on this for user access, hotel settings and initiation of Python scripts. The website is the system GUI. Before we started coding, I researched possible Python extensions [2]. This helped Simas choose the extensions for the python scripts. Once we decided to create a website, and decided on the Bootstrap 3 framework, I researched and summarised elements of the framework and began to script some early versions of our website. Once I had an understanding I wrote and gave my presentation [3] to introduce the group to the framework. After drawing up a draft product specification, [4] I began to code the systems main functions and outputs based on a draft database schema that Simas had created. I edited this with him to create a fully normalised database [5]. An older version of the system [6, 8] shows just how much changed on the system over the last few weeks. We combined Python and PHP scripts on a server [9, 10], and I finalised out the presentation of data. I researched using Google Graphs and wrote the website content, including all relevant legal documentation [1, 9, 10].The system was tested during creation from my browser. I and Simas spent time testing on the server. Once the system was finished, myself and Simas finished off writing chapter 3 of the team report [11].

My contributions were vital to the team, without them the system not function. Without my work, the system would have no interface, use an incomplete database and the team report would be inadequate. I feel I was a vital team member, and that my work shows that. If I were to do it again, I would complete tasks earlier and set personal deadlines, which would have meant more time to fix the Internet Explorer bug. I would have also summarised the SRS document myself and dedicated more tasks to colleagues.

The presentation that I gave [3] was based on the Bootstrap framework. It was a summary of my research on the framework and explained and exhibited how we would utilise its many features and how our system would benefit. I think the feedback on my presentation was fair and pleasing. I was a fair judge, and scored based on content and understanding of the subject.

Team performance across the course was severely lacking from some members. I and Simas ended up coding the whole project ourselves. This was too much for us to take on. Once we had finished all of this, we then had to write half of the team report. I am extremely pleased with our project technically and was happy with the feedback we received.

We had little help when it came to creation of the product, the other product specialists made no attempt in understanding the workings of the system, helping with programming and most team members were unenthusiastic about the project.

Emmanuel, the team leader, helped create summaries of the team report so that it was easier to write, wrote a large chunk of the team report and helped designate some tasks, but not as many as was necessary. He helped out with some explanations for the website, saving me time.

Ted, the project manager, did a great job keeping the Gantt chart and team log up to date and helped explain parts of the team report to us all.

Wei (Desmond) composed a normalisation report of the database and performed some testing on the system. However he was asked to summarise the SRS document so we could write it up once coding was complete, however he did not do this and we had no time to summarise it ourselves, so we missed out on this.

Jeffrey did not help with the creation of the project, he wrote his presentation based on some example code from Simas and did not fully understand the extensions he was talking about. However he wrote some small sections for the team report.

Simas had the greatest input to the system, he created all of the python program, database, set up and paid for the web server and helped when it came to joining the two separate scripts (PHP and python).

The products were not a fair representation of team input. I and Simas needed help programming, help on the Python side would have allowed for more review sites to be analysed. The product specialists should have helped program, we have learnt Python, HTML and CSS to a fair standard. Documentation also needed more time and effort invested into it.

I also believe that colleagues should have taken time to understand the technicalities of the system. I and Simas allocated time to understand all documentation. We also went through every bit of uploaded research from the others. They did not even run the Python scripts before they were finished. It would have been helpful for the others to have understood the code.

The presentation of the product to the class was a success. Our product was well received and looked professional in comparison to the others. I would have liked more challenging questions asked about the product to show off its complexity. However I feel that we should have placed first and not second. The winning product did not scrape data or utilise Python in the demonstration, but I am pleased with the results.

My progress throughout this course, I feel was good. I gained new understandings of product development, some time management skills and developed my programming skills.

I used some design methodology, we discussed in-depth what our system would do and how it would function. I created some basic designs for the main functions and wrote them first [7] before working on the rest. I also wrote the product specification [11] with Simas, which included the design of the system.

My time management for the project was good, especially considering the amount of work that I took on. I should have kept a log of the hours that I put into the system, however it was far exceeding 100 hours from start to finish.

My data gathering, analysis and presentation was completed to a good standard throughout the project. The reporting interface on the website is professional and interactive [1, 9, 10] and my presentation, a summarisation of the framework that we would use for the website was clear and concise [3]. Examples of my analysis and reporting are shown in my extension summaries [2]. They all show a skill for analysing data.

I wrote a legality section in my presentation [3] on using the Bootstrap framework and a page on the system website showing all the requirements from the extensions and google charts [1, 9, 10]. I should have completed further research into the legality of gathering data from the TripAdvisor website.

I fell short maintaining a record of my work. I have some dated backups of my code, however I should have updated my reflective diary and logged hours worked. This is an important section that I failed to keep up to date, however all of my work is dated and deadlines can be worked out using the Moodle servers, as my work was uploaded on there as soon as completed.

I researched into sustainability of the system, these were listed in the team report chapter 3, and in the product specification [11] and they were mainly concerning not being blocked from TripAdvisor and the server setup. We used the most appropriate languages to code and also the most efficient methods such as Hashing passwords and using encrypted sessions to ensure security [1, 9, 10].

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**Appendix**

1. Copy of most recent CV

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Profile

As a highly motivated, adaptable and responsible student studying for a Computer Science BSC at the University Of Essex, I am always seeking to learn and further myself in my education and personal skills. I possess a large skill set that I am able to demonstrate in any given scenario. These include: being extremely technically competent, making me very tech savvy; being a sociable person, allowing me to work well in teams and also with customers; and having the ability to think quickly and logically which allows me to handle scenarios and work independently, quickly and efficiently.

I am a committed and hardworking student and would make a model employee seeing that I possess good timekeeping, interpersonal, and organisation skills. I also have great initiative and always work with a drive for completion on any task. I am not the kind of person that gives up on a task, but instead, will work as hard as possible, for as long as it takes to complete it.

Education

**University of Essex 2014 -2018**

First year student

Relevant modules include:

Professional Development, Mathematics for computing, Python Programming, Java Programming, Databases, Web development, Network Fundamentals, and Digital Systems Architecture.

Professional development project:

In a team, we developed a web data analysis system (collaboration between Python and PHP/HTML) that analysed hotel review sites, gathered all reviews and ratings based on a hotel and presented them on a website. In the project we had to track our personal progress, manage the group tasks and other members, analyse our performance, present the product and implement many new design and testing methodologies. Our product placed second across the entire year group in a peer review.

**College of Richard Collyer, Horsham 2012-2014**

A Levels:

* A2 Information Technology (Distinction star), A2 Computing (B), A2 Physics (C), AS maths (C)

**Tanbridge House School, Horsham 2007-2012**

GCSEs:

* 13 (2 A\*, 7 A, 4 B) including A grade Maths and A grade English literature and language.
* Level 1 BSC health and safety in the workplace award

TechnicalSkills

I possess a wide variety of technical skills that I have gained from extensive experience from self-teaching, college and university courses. These skills have been developed from hands on experience and also the educational spectrum. They will help me face any technical problems and show my ability to absorb a wide range of information.

* Extensive programming experience with Python, Java, JSP, JSTL, HTML, CSS and PHP. This includes both object orientated and procedural structures. Lengthy experience with many projects and over 3 years of experience from University, College and personal development.
* Networking fundamental skills, setting up, diagnosing, and understanding a network setup including hosts, routers, switches and firewalls. Experience from university course and also home networking.
* Computer hardware extensive understanding, including fault diagnosis, hardware construction and constraints, computer building with surplus experience and management of systems. Experience dates back over 5 years from personal development.
* Experience with databases and SQL language. Setup, management, editing and adding to databases with experience of this for 2 years from university course, college and some self-taught management.
* Analysis of variety of operating systems: Windows and Linux. An advanced understanding of these and their benefits and shortfalls. Experience through university and college courses, also from personal experiments and many operating system setup and configurations on many devices.

AdditionalSkills

**Interpersonal skills**

I am confident in my personal skills, and have worked with the public for a long time. I am able to communicate effectively and clearly, deal with many situations, negotiate effectively, make logical and rational informed decisions and offer guidance to others.

**Team working skills**

I have always worked well in both teams and working alone. I have good leadership skills, and I am able to take control of a group, designate tasks and mediate effectively. I have worked in teams of all sizes and have worked well with colleagues and team leaders, even going out of my way to help others and meet our goals.

**Organisational skills**

My organisational skills are well developed and tested. As a university student, I have to keep track and manage work, socialising and budgeting. I have found a good balance, and have never missed a deadline. I am a good timekeeper, and am able to plan ahead and schedule events effectively.

**Creativity**

I have a great creativity, and am always full of ideas. I am able to research and develop ideas independently and professionally and have shown this being a computer scientist. I frequently have to produce pages of code from scratch, create user interfaces and carry out research on topics I am unfamiliar with. I enjoy furthering my knowledge through research.

**Perseverance and motivation**

I am a very motivated individual and will always aim to complete any given task no matter what. I am a very persevering person and will use my forward thinking to find a way around any possible problem. I am a great problem solver, and have had a lot of experience doing this, studying Physics, computer science and maths has ensured that I was problem solving and also persevering whilst getting good results.

Experience

**Cooperative food stores Date June 2013 – September 2014**

* Interpersonal skills: I gained many people skills whilst working here. These were gained from working as a team, working jobs with other people, getting to know colleagues and serving the general public.
* Organisational skills: I developed all of my organisational skills whilst working here, keeping track of my personal documents, organising stock on the shop floor and in the warehouse and doing inventory checks.
* Commercial awareness: I gained an understanding of the business sector and the overall company status by researching and looking into the company. I was able to benefit the store by doing this.
* Flexibility: I was able to be very flexible when working here as I was working regular shifts and taking on overtime.
* Confidence: My confidence improved whilst working here, especially when dealing with the public. I was able to take control of situations and do the right thing.
* Teamwork skills: My team working skills improved as I was constantly working in a team managing the entire store.

**Argos Date December 2012 – September 2014**

* Interpersonal skills: I started to develop these skills in the work place at this placement, I learnt so much about dealing with the public and also teaching and guiding less experienced colleagues, seeing that I was employed for a long time.
* Initiative: I developed and was able to use my quick and logical thinking across the job, from stock placement and management in the warehouse, to setting up displays and helping customers with faulty goods, I was able to showcase many of my skills and further my confidence, especially being an experienced member of staff.
* Communication: I am able to communicate effectively and professionally with team members and customers alike. Communication between team members was vital to allow for smooth operation and with customers I was able to help them choose appropriate items and also upsell extra product care where appropriate.
* Adaptability: I was able to adapt to a wide range of situations and always apply my full skill set. This would be a variety of jobs, customer problems and helping other staff.
* Sales skills: I was able to demonstrate and explain the products from a basic description using my initiative, I was often able to upsell more expensive models, sell add on products and sell product insurance. I developed these skills on the job and helped the store meet its targets.

Interests and achievements

**Computing**

Computers have always been a huge interest to me. I have had many years building configuring and maintaining custom computers and systems for friends and family. I have also proven my skills by upgrading and repairing Mobile Phones, Tablet Computers and Televisions. At college I began programming and have had great success doing so, completing many projects, one for the College Moodle systems and another analysing hotel review websites. I have a great interest in this field and love my university course. My future goals are to graduate with a 1st class degree and work in a global innovative computing firm.

**Sports**

I have played sports for all my life. My main interest is rugby. I have played for Horsham RUFC for the many years, and was the most improved player for my last year there. In this season we placed second in the west-Sussex A league and played against teams with an international background. I have played for my school and college team and now currently play for the University of Essex rugby union second team. This is a professional BUCS league team.

**Engineering**

I have had an interest in engineering for a long time, especially automotive engineering. I am fascinated by the design and working of cars. I have invested a lot of time, effort and money working on my own car, servicing and modifying it, all by myself.

References - References are available on request