



**Trinity College Dublin**  
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## CSU33013 – Individual Reflective Essay

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**Group** 26

With completion of the CSU33013 Software Engineering Project, I am now able to accurately reflect on my personal experience throughout the module. I benefitted from a variety of new things I learned from working on this project. I was a member of Group 26 and our project title was “IBM DevOps Pipeline”. For this project, we built a continuous integration and continuous deployment pipeline to help automate software delivery.

After having a fantastic time co-operating with my team last year in this module, I was excited to get to know and work with a new team this year. My overall experience in a collaborative team project this year was very positive. I have had an excellent time working with my fellow students. Everybody pulled their weight in the group; nobody was lacking any effort when it came to putting our heads’ down and getting the task at hand done. Everyone also displayed utter interest and enthusiasm in our project which is always a plus. We achieved so much together all thanks to working together efficiently.

As opposed to last year, I got a chance to act as a Project Manager for the team as I am now a third year student. This was a completely new experience for me, considering last year I had the third year students managing and looking after me. I had to take on rolls such as keeping in contact with the client and also acting as the Scrum Master in our meetings. I was no stranger to Scrum meetings as I experienced them daily during my summer internship at IBM last year, however I had never taken the lead at a meeting so it was a new occurrence for me. This taught me great leadership skills and also it unexpectedly gave me new listening abilities as I always had to be engaging with each team member’s tasks and giving them advice on how to tackle that task.

Since last year I was a second year myself, I knew how hard and daunting it was to enter this module and meeting with the third years so I quickly tried to make our working atmosphere as comfortable as possible for them so we could communicate openly and effectively. This greatly improved our teamwork as it not only promoted a productive environment but an enjoyable one.

Despite our team chemistry being exceptional, I myself still came across some bumps in the road along the course of this project.

The first hurdle I had to jump was learning new technologies for the project. I had never used “Travis CI” nor “Jest” nor “Cypress.io”. However, I was eager to learn more and I researched documentation and tutorials. I am now proud to say I am proficient at those technologies and hopefully that will stand for me in future scenarios.

Secondly, the video meetings with our client Mihai from IBM were obviously quite intimidating in the beginning. However as time went on, I became more comfortable and confident with the meetings and asking Mihai for assistance when it was needed.

Ultimately, the biggest problem I had during this project was the current Covid-19 pandemic. Due to us being unable to access college facilities and everybody having to work from home, I had to get accustomed to video meetings and video presentations. Furthermore, due to me being the only member of the team still in employment, meetings had to be scheduled around my increased working hours. This was a completely new experience for all of us and I am pleased to say that we handled the situation greatly as a team and overcame these issues.

During a group project I am constantly asking myself if I am doing enough to contribute to the group effort, but I can happily say that I contributed a satisfactory amount of work to this project.

The main aspect of this project I am proudest of is me performing my duties as a Project Manager. I kept in touch with the client acting as medium between the developers and the product owner (Mihai). I set up meetings and organised venues for our meetings. I gave guidance to the second year students who were working as software developers. This was a new experience for me and I can proudly say that I gave it my all.

Another contribution I made was with the quiz app we made to display how our pipeline application deployment functions. I designed the CSS for the application and added functionality to the different option buttons (e.g. Starting the game and displaying the different popup menus). This application was key in presenting our pipeline as it is a user-friendly way of showing how easy it is for a developer to edit code and then use our pipeline to error-check the code and inevitably deploy it successfully.

Also as a non-functional requirement of our project, I added the ability of Travis CI to send notifications to our Slack channel. This would notify us and our client of any changes we made to the pipeline.

I was also very proud of the contribution I made with the presentations, Before this project I was quite uncomfortable with getting up in front of a lecture hall full of students and speaking. However for this project, I took this task on the chin and carried it out as well as I could. I now feel more confident doing this type of task.

This project was not only as assignment but it was a journey of discovery and self-reflection. I realised many things about my own working and learning styles.

As I mentioned previously, I did not have much knowledge on acting as a manager in a group project and I used to sit back in projects and not express my true feelings. Now I am much more self-assured when it comes to speaking out and putting across my ideas in a group setting. I learned that I am also good at directing a group and assigning roles and responsibilities whilst also listening to each member's opinion.

I also realised that I engage with the material a lot more when I am constantly asking questions. No one should ever feel ashamed of asking too many questions as it is the key to learning. The meetings we had with our demonstrator were extremely helpful to me as it gave me a chance to ask questions to somebody who had knowledge of the query at hand.

In conclusion, I started this project; lacking the new skills that I have gained throughout the module and now, at the resolution of the project, I can openly say that I have grown as a developer, a leader and a person.