**Final Vision**

By my signature below, I certify that I have not received improper help nor given it to others in writing this assignment nor have I used any method that would give me an unfair advantage over others in the class. This assignment represents my own work only and I had no assistance from another person or any other source unless it is referenced at the bottom of each appropriate page.

Kishlay Kumar - 09/12/2022

(Full Typed Signature and Date)

After forty years of my life, I have come to believe in the fact that life is an adventure and to plan it precisely from start to end fool’s errand. But there are things that are in our control and there is no harm in exercising that control to improve upon ourselves. To measure things that are quantifiable is a great tool in the hands of an individual who wants to keep improving constantly.

**How’s life?**

I am working as the Chief Technology Officer of ‘Three Dragons Studios’, a video game publisher established in 2030, headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The company was started by me and my brother in the year 2030. I have always been an avid gamer and a tech geek and my brother’s interests have been in the business and marketing side of things. When our interests aligned for a common cause, we decided to start this venture and today after five years of toil and efforts we have established ourselves as one of the best video game publishers from India. Our first AAA game ‘Karna: The Warrior’, which is an open world role playing game was published in just 2 years, thanks to the commitment and dedication of my small team of talented developers. The game was an instant hit, selling over 1 million copies which helped us raise more funds as investors started to believe in our capabilities. Last month we released the sequel to our first game and the responses so far have been overwhelmingly positive on all the online distribution platforms.

**The journey at Microsoft**

The journey up until this point, however, has not been a bed of roses but more of a path filled with rough stones and me having to walk barefoot. And through this entire ordeal, I have learnt one most important thing – When you want to create something big, it is less about how skilled you are as an individual and more who you are and what you want to be. To find the right answer to this question is no less than enlightenment. To find or create the organisation that aligns with your values, your ideals and beliefs is a Herculean task. My journey after I passed out from Plaksha has been a search for myself and who I want to be, and this search led me to this point in my life. I started as a Data Scientist in 2023 at Microsoft Turing India after completing the Technology Leaders Programme. The fact that I spent a decade at the organisation is a testament to how well my values aligned with that of the organisation. Microsoft has always valued creativity in its employees and the managers encourage the employees to come up with innovative ways to solve any problem. The number of patents and IPs filed by the company is a testament to that. Another important thing is work life balance and Microsoft is exemplary in that regard. I remember being told by my manager to take a day off and go out with my family just because I had completed my work two days in advance. Had I been working somewhere else; I would have been burdened with a hundred other requirements.

Working my way up from Data Scientist to Principal Applied and Data Scientist I acquired many skills along the way. But the most important thing I realised as I moved up the ladder was that – when working in an organisation, it is less about how skilled you are as an individual and more about how you deal with people – peers, juniors, managers, and other stakeholders that you are directly in contact with. Sure, in the initial stages of your career, it is more about what you can get done but as I transitioned into the role of Senior Data and Applied Scientists at Microsoft after 4 years of experience, and was given greater responsibility, I realised that my technical skills were less of a challenge. The bigger task here was to build a team that could work together to create a product. And to build a team requires leadership skills. The fact that I was the eldest cousin in my home helped me in this regard. I was able to establish an elder brotherly relationship with all the junior members of my team and they never hesitated in sharing their problems with me. Of course, it was not always a smooth sail. At times, I had to bring out the authoritative leader inside me to get the job done. But more often than not it was about the skills of influence and persuasion. I used to ask my all my engineers to commit to a timeline in all the team meetings and keep me updated daily if the timeline was still achievable. Public commitments have an added advantage in that people feel obliged to work rather than slack off. However, it was never about pressuring them to work more than needed. In fact, at times I stayed back after office hours just to make sure no one had overburdened themselves with work. The reward point system at Microsoft was another great tool available to me as a Senior Data Scientist. Apart from the manager, I too had the authority of financially reward individuals whose work was exemplary or executed in a remarkably efficient manner. The financial rewards used to serve as a great incentive especially with freshers who were eager to prove themselves.

**Back to the old days**

Despite, my great track record and well-balanced life at Microsoft, I always had a longing to start a venture of my own. As a child, gaming was my go-to hobby whenever I had free time. I and my brother played ‘Contra’ and ‘Counter Strike’ all the time and talked about making an even more successful game when we grew up. However, the dream faded into the background as both of got busy with our education and careers. Six years back however, while we were on a family vacation, and reminiscing the good old times, he reminded me of the idea that we had as children. It was at this moment I realised what I had been missing in my life. Both of us still had that longing desire somewhere in our hearts, to go back to where it all started for us after all these years. We decided to take the risk start our own venture ‘Game leap Studios’. The year before we started our company was spent trying to build upon the idea of the game that we wanted to make. Alongside, I talked to some of my peers to see if they would be interested in becoming a part of this adventurous journey and was fortunate enough to get a positive response for four senior developers and two juniors. My brother meanwhile got to work on the market research and other business aspects of the product once we were done ideating. Two years of sleepless nights translated into pure joy and ecstasy as we released our first game in June 2032 and from there on, we haven’t looked back.

**Married Life: An unexpected Journey**

The journey up until this point has not just been one of professional development but of personal milestones as well. Twenty years back I would never even have dreamt of marrying and starting my own family. But when do things go as planned. I met the love of my life ‘Priya’ at the E3 Game Developers event held in Los Angeles, California in 2027 through a friend. Our interest in gaming was the connecting factor here as well as we clicked instantly and today, she and my daughter ‘Ziva’ are an inseparable part of my life.

**The Balance**

To create a balance between work and life is the biggest challenge I have faced. When you are doing what you love to do, it is easy to enter the state of Flow. And you are less inclined to give up if you are stuck somewhere. But the real challenge that I face today is to know when to stop. I still can’t forgive myself for missing my daughters’ Sports Day Event because an interview with a potential senior developer went longer than I expected (I made it up to her by taking her out for a picnic, the next Sunday). Timeboxing and Time Management are my goals for the immediate future as I try to stay meaningfully involved with both family and company. But trying to juggle between multiple things is not easy and takes a toll on one’s mind. A few years back I fell seriously ill because I was working too much. At this point I decided to pick up on something to maintain my physical and mental health. Yoga and a half an hour of meditation were the most effective techniques that I found in my search for well-being. Life moves like a fast-flowing river, and it is necessary to take the time out for yourself, to reflect on who you are, how you are and are you content. Contentment involves not just professional advancement but physical, mental, and spiritual health along with that. And thus, I take the time every week to sit alone and reflect on where I am and what I want to be going forward. T

All the events in my life have shaped me up to be the person that I am today. I don’t know what the future holds for me, but the next set of tasks is to be the best version of myself – be it a leader, a mentor, a husband, or a father. And to keep evaluating and reflecting on what went right and what went wrong is the key to success along the path.