IT project Report

Reflection/What have I learnt from the second guest lecture

In the second guest lecture, they talked about what are the sign of a good engineer/coder looks like, and what they are looking for a good teammate. First, they talked about what are the architecture requirement for a regular software. It will require the ability to deliver regulatory changes, as the clients’ demand will keep changing, and we need to be able to deliver the new change in a relatively short amount of time. Thus, tear down the project and create a new one is not feasible. The code needs to have a flexible structure which will be easy to add changes in the future. Also, the software engineer has to have the ability to foresee the future about which part of the code will likely be requested to add new thing.

In the lecture they said: the real-life software development looks like an iterative. Whenever there is a poor decision, put a pin there and they will be revisited when they have more information, and try to fix it. It will be difficult to do that if the software has a poor structure subject to change. The most important thing for a software engineer is teamwork. It’s inevitable that software engineer needs to work in team. Every awesome result is polluted by the thought of many mind. The software engineers that work in a same project have to have a consistent code style, so that they will be easier to understand each other’s code. Beside being a team player, as a software engineer, the software skill is also very important, and the skill is not about how many language/ what languages you know. From the guest lecturer, they said that they will be more focus on the core skill/ critical thinking skill and the ability to solve problem when they are recruiting. As the technology is evolving rapidly, being good and comfortable on a certain area/language is not going to help you to solve problems. A good engineer should be able to adapt the constantly changing world quickly and never stop thinking. In order to stand out during a job interview, we need to demonstrate that to the interviewer, rather than just pure raw coding skill. It’s more about the agnostic skills than specific technologies. In the interview, they will also try to see if you are good with teamwork, to see if you can fit in their team. When they talked about the sign of a good team member, the member should be a curious, question asking person, constantly asking why. Because when you are asking, you have a higher chance to get new information and this might help you become easier to solve a problem or making a solution better. And the person should be humble, play well with other. The ability to connect the dot for the team is also an important sign for a good team member. And the last but not least, this is an obvious one -- the person should do his/her best on his task.

Reflection/What have I learnt from the first guest lecture:

In the first guest lecture, we have a person that founded his own company. He mainly talked about communication as a software engineer, and how to have an idea, and how to build it. He mentioned that even though, software engineers are working with computers all the time, communication is still an important skill to them. As a software engineer, you need to work in team a lot, therefore, you need to know how to communicate with your team members in order to collaborate and talk with each other about their idea. Also, you have to know how to communicate with your clients, in order to figure out what they want and how to make a product that suitable for their requirement. For example, in this IT project, we have a client that wants to be able to saves their memory within their family and possibly pass down to generations. We need to communicate with the client all the time in the process to see if she is happy about our current design and explain to them what functions that our product will have, so she has a clear idea about what are we going, and we also can get feedback that can help us adjust our direction while we are working on it. Also, we have totally four members in a team in this project. And working together is not easy, especially this is the first time for most of us working as a team in a project, and there are a lot of difference between us. We have to have a constant communication to let each other stay on the same page and push the project forward. Also, in the guest lecture, he talked about commenting, the most boring but important thing while coding. He had an example that his brother as the CTO of his companies that doesn’t want to know anyone that don’t do commenting on their code. It’s true that it’s very upsetting when you can’t understand the code that your teammates is working on, you need to find the person that wrote that part and explain to you otherwise you can’t just simply add things on the code that you don’t fully understand, and this is time consuming. Commenting on code is actually very useful for the team and sometimes even for the person who wrote it. At last, he talked about how to generate an idea. He mentioned that to find a problem that you cannot imagine an answer for but you know people want to find it and it inspires you, and while you thinking about an idea, remember to have rest, constantly working without sleeping or eating is not health for both your body and mind, most of the time, when you are exhausting, the ideas you generated, are useless. In addition, for students in the university, the best practice to learn and experience the real-world project, you should treat the university as your client and deliver your best work all the time.

Reflection/What have I learnt from the third guest lecture:

In the third guest lecture, it mainly talked about job hiring, and some ethical consideration in the field of computer. For example, the ethics of electronic privacy issues, and the moral responsible software engineering. And also, in the network, media, the Facebook, fake news and ethics of censorship. Especially, we are living in an era of Ai, it’s very important that we need to make people feel safe and protect their privacy. About job seeking, the lecturer also gave a lot of great advices. She told us that, there are 3000 new job seekers added every year, 15000 jobs are advertised every year. Also, the statistic shows that nowadays, there are 30 applications for a job in average, and it’s a double of number compare to six years ago. Therefore, the competition between job seekers is getting bigger and bigger. You have to have a good strategy in your job seeking process in order to stand out and get the job that you want. After that, she shared some tips about interviewing for a job. We should treat every interview we go to seriously, before you go, you should have a mock interview, think about what questions that the interviewer is going to ask, and make sure you have the answer for all of them. The guest lecturers said that the person that doesn’t know all the questions and the answers to those questions before he/she walked into the interview, it’s not going to get hired. Practice makes perfect. Also, during the interview section, you should pay attention on the questions on where they are focusing on, are they focusing on the past? Or are they focusing on the future. And base on what they are focusing on, to give them the answer they want. And if you have questions for them after the interview, like if you want to know when you can hear the reply from them, or how do they think about you during the interview, or even the pay, the bonus etc. and you should show confidence when you asking about this question. And the last part, when you have been offered, remember to check your contract clearly before you sign anything. You should take your time and bring the contract home to check if all it said fulfill your requirements or the law requirements. You should know the market average salary and the national employment standard, to ensure that you been treat fairly. Other than going to the job-finding website and go to interview, you should have an LinkedIn account or a personal website that record your working status and what have you been accomplished so people will be much easy to find you when they are looking for a person to do the job that is suitable for you, sometimes this will save you a lot of time to searching for job, and it shows your value to the market. From this lecture, I have learned a lot of useful skill that I could use when I am looking for job. I would say this is a very valuable lecture.