Indicater Placement Portfolio

## Teamwork

When carrying out monthly code releases I would work alongside the other developers to deploy software packages to the live servers. The release of such packages would involve two main aspects, code deployment and database updates. I would be responsible for releasing code and testing the client sites after all materials were released. The changes to the databases and code need to been done simultaneously with good communication between the developers to ensure that site services, if any are down for the minimal amount of time. After a few releases the developers and I had managed to automate some of the release processes which decreased and in some cases eliminated the length of time in which site services would be effected by. Most importantly as the Database and code deployments were carried in sections communicating with the database developer was crucial to the operation.

Whilst developing the test department I helped to setup some integration and test sites. This would usually require some back end server configuration that was managed by the senior technician. Here I would deliver configuration requirements needed to finish the site setups to the senior technician.

## Communication skills written/verbal

Throughout the placement I attended many meetings where I would discuss my findings, plan my work and voice any opinions or concerns with a development. These where referred to as the office scrum, team scrum and sprint planning meetings. These meetings also informed the team of what developments each developer was working on any issues they were currently dealing with.

**Office and Team Scrum Meetings:**

Each morning of work the office technical team would gather to discuss the developments they would working on that day, any issues they had encountered so far with the development or concerns that may need to be considered progressing any further. Here I would present my findings and concerns with developments and deliver any information to team that would be beneficial to the development.

As a small portion of the technical team worked out of office around 11:00am each day there would be another scrum meeting with the full technical team via skype. English was not the first language of some of the out of office developers which made it very challenging to discuss the issues at hand or relay instructions at times. It was here I found myself becoming much better at explaining my work logically and simplistically.

Indirectly all developers would be communicating throughout the working day by comments on their jobs ticket. This enhanced my documentation skills by having to clearer and logically explain a problem or provide evidence of my testing conclusion in words.

**Sprint Planning Meetings**

Fortnightly the team would gather and plan the next fortnight’s workload, estimate times for development and testing and designate work to the developers. Here the testing involved would be explained and I would be asked to quote the amount of time needed for testing.

## Problem Solving

Usually in the final stages of development and testing if a job fails it’s testing I would navigate to the source of the problem and begin debugging. As a tester I could not put too much time into this as this is the developer’s job but by providing the developers with these extra technical details I could ensure that the amendments would be made and returned to me for testing quicker. Often I could fix the problem myself and provide the solution to the developer which sped up development process overall. By debugging and fixing code I further enhanced my problem solving skills and knowledge. Further yet I was introduced to some simple third party tools and methods that really helped with debugging code and visualizing logic.

## Creativity

Typically on a monthly bases there would be a software release where all new development code is deployed to the live servers. This would require a full sanity check of client sites and services to check for any configuration issues or bugs introduced to the system. Before this release process is carried there are many processes involved. An analysis would need to be performed to determine which code will be released then all the files need to be collected and deployed to the live server. This was done manually and cost the company much time and resources and proved a mundane task for the tester. I t was here I developed a few system tools to assist with code releases and testing. First I created a deployment program that would retrieve and deploy a list of files. Later the zip program to assist in backing up full site directories was another useful addition to the system tools. These tools allowed the company to automate these previously manual tasks saving time and resources and reducing the chance of human error. An analysis suite was later developed by the senior technician which incorporated theses developed system tools.

Listed below are the system tools I developed to assist with my work:

* File deployment program
* Zip files program
* Git Commit reader
* Automated testing scripts(Selenium)

## Organisational Skills

The team would carry out fortnightly sprint planning meetings where work would be delegate and deadlines planned. After the sprint meeting the team would could visualize there workloads and plan their work accordingly. Inevitably extra work would be distributed between the team depending on development priorities. At any point issues could occur with the system or priorities of work where radically changed which resulted in the team having to adapt to the workload with the available resources. This meant that deadlines and workloads were ever changing requiring good organisational skills and time management. After a few months of style of work I began very good incorporating extra work into busy workload.

## Customer Satisfaction

Closer to the end of my placement a developer and I managed to begin developing testing scripts with an open source software named Selenium. This allowed us to automate website testing that would usually be carried out manually. This was time consuming and resourceful introducing human errors. By creating these testing scripts we manage to decrease the response times of bugs raised by the clients and focus on more in depth details such as the layout of the user interface and the logic of the client site. This meant that we could deliver cleaner software solutions, faster and more efficient.

## Time Management

At the end of the month the Project manager would deliver a report to the senior technician and the CEO which would detail which development had been worked, how long they took and quotes for coming developments. This report essentially outlined where technical resources has been spent. The report was generated from the workflow management system in which all developers and testers log time against developments. Managing time logging on daily basis enhanced my time management skills even further as I could visualise where time in day was being spent.

## Leadership

Closer to the end of the internship I was working on a project that had already been running for 9 months and drawing close to its delivery date. It was a sizable development with a specification that had changed largely from the original specification. To make things that little extra challenging the client accountant who started this project had left and there were some discrepancies in the documentation. The majority of developers where heavily involved in other projects and the demands of the systems maintenance at this time which didn’t leave many developers free.

I worked closely via skype with two out-of-office developers to work through the remaining issues before its quickly approaching deadline. Here I coordinated the developers through the minefield of bugs we encountered. At the end of each day I would deliver to the project manager and senior technician a progress report of the development and discuss any concerns/issues with the project.

By directing this project I have become better at utilizing resources available to me and reviewing the progress of the development and managing team members efficiently and professionally.