

**NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATIVE CORE (ICC)
ACADEMIC YEAR: 2024-2025, SEMESTER 1
INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENT**

Module Code and Title:	ML0004 Career & Innovative Enterprise for the Future World
Assignment Title:	Prototyping Conversation
Weightage:	22%
Deadline:	Week 8, 10 Oct 2024 (Thu), 23:59hr

Part A: Informational Interview Details

Date of Informational Interview:	30 September 2024
Name of the interviewee (mentor/ professional) – Full name is required:	Fienny Angelina
The organisation employed at:	Facebook Singapore
Job Title:	Software Engineer
Mode of interview: (online, face-to-face)	Online (Zoom Meeting)
E-mail address: (preferably workplace e-mail)/ LinkedIn Profile address / Social Media link of interviewee)	Email : fiennyangelina@gmail.com LinkedIn Profile address: https://www.linkedin.com/in/fienny-angelina-68576697/

Key Informational Interview Questions (maximum 5):

- **Question 1:** How do you maintain a work-life balance in your current situation?
- **Question 2:** What specific skills do you think are crucial for someone aiming to excel in your field, which is software engineering?
- **Question 3:** What do you think is more important for career growth: a high GPA or hands-on experience?
- **Question 4:** Where do you see the field of Information Engineering, especially in areas like IoT or AI, heading? And what excites you about it?
- **Question 5:** Any advice for people who are looking to enter your field? Or maybe a tip on how to avoid common mistakes while staying motivated?

Part B: Reflection (word count 500 words \pm 10%)

As a part of my career exploration process, I chose Fienny, a professional software engineer from Meta. I chose her as my interviewee because Fienny has a substantial role in such a dynamic company and this conversation may offer valuable and particularly relevant insights into how I can shape my career in the digital world.

The first significant insight I obtained from my interview was the importance of adaptability in technological advancement. Fienny highlighted that the field of technology is constantly evolving, and staying relevant requires continuous learning and upskilling every single day. This resonates with me as I aim to remain open to learning and exploring new studies like AI or cybersecurity alongside mastering my core focus, backend programming, through the NTU-Google Scholarship which the CAO holds. She also stressed the importance of building a strong portfolio, suggesting that real-world projects often carry more weight than a high GPA, which is usually only used in the selection process. This was eye-opening, as I initially very prioritized my academic performance instead of everything. Therefore, now, I see that balancing both theory and hands-on experience is very essential.

Furthermore, Fienny's advice on teamwork also stood out for me. For her, while she said that focusing on individual technical skills is important, collaborating with cross-functional teams, such as product designers and data scientists happens 50% of the time within the industry; making communication skills can be considered as the second most needed skill in this job requirements. Hence, this underlines the importance of the capability to communicate well with other people even with various types of backgrounds and cultures.

Reflecting on my initial career choice, I now realize that while backend programming is my primary interest, there are still many things that can be a path for me to pursue as a programmer, which are cybersecurity, AI, or even UI/UX programmer. Fienny's journey made me reconsider how focused my path was and what methods that are needed to be improved. Her advice encouraged me to keep being versatile and exploring related fields. With this kind of method, various exciting opportunities for innovation could help me diversify my career prospects in the future. Moreover, this approach can also help me remain competent and relevant as technology evolves.

After evaluating my career goals through the interview, I feel more confident that my first choice as a backend programmer aligns with my aspirations and values. I aim to create efficient systems, solve real-world problems, and have lucrative career opportunities. However, the interview also made me reconsider a lot of things that I thought were not part of my concern, which are communication and collaboration skills, as well as the importance of experience in this job role as a software engineer.

The main outcome of this interview is a shift in my approach and priority to my career development. Hence, I will be more focused on building a portfolio of meaningful projects and taking on internships where I can apply my skills in real-world settings. I am also more open to communicating and collaborating with different types of people.

(Word Count: 514 words)

Declaration of Academic Integrity Form – Prototyping Conversation Assignment with Video Recording

The GAI policy included in the ML0004 Course Outline:

Leveraging on Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI) Tools

NTU's position is that we should equip students with the knowledge and skills to use these AI technologies productively, ethically and critically and to help them sharpen their cognitive skills by synthesising ideas, performing in-depth analysis, and working creatively. Students are expected to continue practising high academic and professional honesty and integrity standards.

You may use GAI programs (e.g., ChatGPT) to help in your work, such as to generate ideas and to improve your writing. However, you should be aware that the materials generated by GAI programs may contain inaccuracies and be incomplete. Please be aware that the use of GAI may also stifle the development of your skills in writing as well as creative and critical thinking. Please note that contributions from GAI programs must be appropriately quoted and cited every time they are used. Failure to do so is considered a violation of academic integrity.

Please make a proper declaration in the “**Declaration of Academic Integrity**” if you employ any GAI programs to help in your work and submit the supporting document(s) as required.

ML0004 adapted Declaration of Academic Integrity (Prototyping
Conversation Assignment with Video Recording):

DECLARATION OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Please fill in the required information and sign to indicate that you have read and accepted the following statements. Your assignment will not be accepted without this declaration.

By listing my name and signing below, I confirm that:

1. I have read and understood the [University Code of Conduct](#), including the information on practices concerning [academic integrity](#). In the attached coursework submission, I have worked within its expectations.
2. I am aware that failure to act in accordance with the University Code of Conduct may lead to the imposition of penalties, which may include the requirement to revise and resubmit an assignment, receiving a lower grade, or receiving an F grade for the assignment, suspension from the University or termination of my candidature.
3. I consent to the University copying and distributing any or all of my work in any form and using third parties to verify whether my work contains plagiarised material and for quality assurance purposes.
4. I have uploaded the Prototyping Conversation assignment on the tutorial site.

To check the following where applicable:

- ☒ I confirm that the submitted work is substantively produced and completed by myself, and I did not use any Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI) programs (e.g. ChatGPT, AdCreative etc.).

- ☐ I confirm that the submitted work is substantively produced and completed by myself. However, I have used GAI programs in the following manner to complete the work:
- ☐ To generate ideas/insights, synthesise information, and other similar uses (I have included the prompts used in the GAI programs using a separate document)
 - ☐ To review, refine and/or suggest ways to improve my original work (I have submitted both my original writing and the revised writing by the GAI programs with time stamps, including the prompts used)
 - ☐ Others (I have elaborated on our use of GAI programs using a separate document)

Michael Joseph Candra

Name


Signature

30 September 2024

Date