

## **PRACTICUM FINAL PAPER**

MyPortal Exchange Inc. is a company under Viventis Search Asia. The company focuses on developing projects that would satisfy their clients and would benefit the lives of the people. They aim for innovation in a business approach. Their general structure consists of Admins, Operations, and Technicals/Developers. Their General Manager is Mr. Jonathan Ritchie Yap.

The work environment is very casual and friendly but with a touch of business flavor. All interns and mentors are working together inside the office which makes it easier for the developers to interact with each other. There are instances wherein Sir Yap himself gives the interns some tasks related to business like making a pitch and thinking of small ideas that may help the society. This is very helpful for us since working in an industry as a developer not only involves programming but also business since technology and trends are dependent on each other and business is one of the key points when considering making an application to serve others.

We were assigned to different projects of the company based on our interests and capabilities. I was assigned to do mobile development and front-end web development of Tap-to-Hire project which is a mobile recruitment app wherein one can apply for a job straight from their smartphones easily. It was also a work by the company's interns last year and we are just continuing it. I was assigned to projects wherein we have to find bugs and fix those bugs. We were also assigned to do new pages for the new features. We were guided by our mentors from the Mobile Development Team which consists of Mr. John Paulo Cabrera and Mr. Al John De Vera Albuera as we learn programming in Android Studio. They helped us install Android Studio by providing us its SDK since it is very strenuous to download it. Android Studio needs a good machine for the application to run efficiently. They gave us tasks and by doing these, we learned new things about android. It can be called "exploration-in-action". I think my internship is so rewarding since I really wanted to learn how to develop applications in mobile since the moment I became a computer science student.

We were told to make different kinds of activities at first to familiarize ourselves with android and show us that using an IDE like Android Studio is very convenient. We just have to drag widgets and modify its properties and we will be able to produce pages in an android app. Then we were told to make lists and figure out how can we make data that were fetched from the database be displayed in a list view. We were both told to use the basic and custom view of the list. Since each container in the list accepts a View object and the container itself does not do the conversion from the data object like strings to a View object, an adapter is needed. There are many adapters which can be used and I tried using ListAdapter for the basic and ArrayAdapter for the custom listview. I also added Postman Rest Client to check the data for get and post HTTP requests. Then we were told to make an authentication for

the register and login page. I imported volley to be able to do this. I experienced a big problem here to the point that I had to repeat the application all over again since even my mentor was not able to solve the problem. What I think caused the problem is when I added the root needed to import volley into the project and then synced the whole project. I think the gradle settings was crashed and it caused errors splattered all over the project. I did the worst solution possible that time and it made me ask questions like “What if there is no API for android? Will the developer do all the task necessary to build and sync the gradle?” and many others. We also did the login into the app via Facebook. I used the Facebook API for android. I did encounter many problems here since it took too long for me to be able to generate the API key just to know that it can be generated by the API itself after giving the hash code. I was so dumbfounded but also happy that I was able to solve my problem and, thanks to this task, I became a Facebook Developer. Never have I imagined that it was so easy to be one. We were also told to include Google Maps API wherein the user can choose a location and the application saves it. I added modifications to it to add flavor. I really enjoyed doing this task since compared to other tasks, this task was the one that amazed me most and the most rewarding.

After that sequence of tasks, I studied Django to be able to work for the TapToHire web project. Django is a web framework for Python programming language which follows the MVC (Model-View-Controller) architectural pattern and encourages rapid development. I found it hard to install the needed technologies like PostgreSQL and its psycopg adapter, in Windows, and thanks to my mentor, Ms. Ivana Joyce Cabatbat, I was able to install it. Unfortunately, there were no tasks yet from the TapToHire web application that were given to us. It was kind of discouraging since we studied Django knowing that there were no tasks yet since they still have to configure it before we work onto it. But I don't think my effort was put into vain since my mentor monitors me as she was the one who provided me with the tutorials to learn Django. It was all worth it since I appreciated using it. It is a very amazing and convenient tool to make a website. It is like Django is telling me “Set me up, I will do the rest for you!”. Everytime I move on to the next part of tutorial, I am always amazed by just how amazing Django is. It is an art.

As I've mentioned above, we did not only did programming but we also participated on non-technical stuffs like pitching and attending events to make us more engaged and knowledgeable when it comes to working in industry. In our first pitching activity, we are to think of a website which can be incorporated with the domain name “ratedguru” which was bought by our general manager. My idea was an app that specializes in collectors like car collectors, tool collectors, book collectors, and others. In our second pitching, all of the interns were divided into three groups and were assigned with two mentors each group. Each group should think of an app that we think is needed in this current society, provide a marketing plan prepare a presentation and show it to the admins of the company. My group presented the “MasterSlave App” wherein anyone who lacks time and effort to do things can order people to do it in place of them. An example of these activities is buying groceries, fetching laundry, cleaning house, or any task. We aimed to beat the TaskRabbit application. Thankfully, it looked like they liked our idea based from their feedback. Moreover, we were also invited to attend the Philippine Cloud Summit 2016 at SMX Convention, SM Aura,

Taguig City under the name of the company. The event was about The Internet of Things and Cloud Computing.

Thanks to my internship here, I realized that there are things which are a must to learn since working in an industry not only needs technical knowledge and programming skills but also requires business and communication skills.

I would recommend other companies to do the same with what MyPortal Exchange Inc. did. The experience was so awesome and I actually felt more alive as a computer science student than ever. I realized that computer science could be this fun and there are more things than the joy from learning new programming languages that could convince someone who hated computers love computer science.



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