**Reflection on Secure Software Development Module**

The Secure Software Development module was a crucial part of my degree program, focusing on creating software resilient to attacks and vulnerabilities. It covered secure coding practices, threat modeling, security testing, and the use of security frameworks. As someone with a non-computer science background, I found this module particularly challenging yet incredibly important. The coursework included a hands-on project on **copyright infringement in the music industry**, lectures, and case studies, which aimed to integrate security into every stage of the software development lifecycle. A significant component of this module was a group project, which allowed us to collaborate and learn from one another.

Initially, I felt a significant amount of apprehension and uncertainty. Coming from a non-computer science background, the concepts and technical requirements seemed daunting. Programming had always been a challenge for me, and the added complexity of ensuring security made it even more intimidating. However, the group project offered a supportive learning environment. Collaborating with peers who had stronger programming backgrounds provided a source of guidance and reassurance. As the module progressed, I started to feel more confident, especially when successfully implementing security features and conducting vulnerability assessments as part of our group work.

The module was extremely beneficial, despite the initial difficulties. One of the key positives was the practical, hands-on approach. The real-world projects and scenarios were particularly useful in helping me apply theoretical concepts in practice. Working in a group was especially advantageous; I learned a great deal from my team members, who were more proficient in programming. They shared their knowledge, provided coding tips, and helped troubleshoot issues, which significantly enhanced my learning experience. However, the steep learning curve and the technical demands of programming were significant hurdles. The support from instructors and collaboration with peers were critical in overcoming these challenges. The experience of struggling and ultimately succeeding in the module made the learning process deeply rewarding.

This module has had a profound impact on my professional practice. Given my non-computer science background, understanding secure software development is crucial. Cyber threats are prevalent, and the ability to write secure code is essential. The skills and knowledge I gained have transformed my approach to software development. I now prioritize security from the initial design phase through to deployment and maintenance. Learning from my team members during the group project was invaluable. Their expertise and willingness to help filled in many of the gaps in my programming knowledge, making me more proficient and confident in writing secure code.

The Secure Software Development module has been instrumental in my professional development. It has instilled a security-first mindset, which is vital for developing robust and reliable software. The challenges I faced were significant, but they were crucial in deepening my understanding and resilience. This module, particularly the group project, has prepared me to handle real-world scenarios where security cannot be compromised, bridging the gap between my non-technical background and the technical demands of secure software development.

**Action Plan:** In the short term, I plan to apply the principles and practices learned in this module to my current projects in other modules, ensuring that I consistently develop secure software. I will continue to improve my programming skills through continuous practice and by seeking out additional resources and tutorials. Additionally, I aim to maintain the collaborative spirit of the group project by seeking mentorship and engaging in peer learning opportunities. In the long term, I aim to advocate for and implement secure development practices within my team and organization, contributing to a culture of security awareness and proactive defense against cyber threats. I will also pursue further professional development opportunities, such as workshops and certifications, to stay updated with the latest developments in cybersecurity.

Reflecting on the Secure Software Development module, it is clear that the knowledge and skills acquired will have a lasting impact on my professional practice. This module has enabled me to overcome my initial difficulties with programming and to contribute to the creation of secure, reliable software solutions, bridging the gap between my non-computer science background and the technical demands of secure software development. The experience of learning from my peers in the group project was particularly enriching, providing me with practical programming insights and fostering a collaborative approach to problem-solving.