**Reflective Journal**

(i) An overview of what you understand reflection in a professional setting to mean / involve. How and why

reflection is a useful skill and tools to use in your professional life.

**Overview:**

Reflecting on the work process is a key to learning and acquiring knowledge from our accomplished tasks. Before I start to reflect upon my journey through the whole project, I would like to emphasize on the importance of this whole experience, and how it enhanced my personal skills with regards to the module I have undertaken. This module is slightly different from all the other modules I have taken for it gave me a scope to come with an idea and implement it by the means necessary. There are several concepts in Advanced Software Engineering which appealed to me personally, but the appeal grew larger when I started implementing these ideas into practical work.

I would like to give a brief overview of what my reflection on the project deals in the larger context of gaining self-experience and understanding. Furthermore, I would like to emphasize on the purpose of the reflective journal and how this purpose has guided the selection of events and incidents that have happened during the course of the project. These events are summarized below:

*Concrete Experience:*

Working on this project was a concrete learning experience. By reflecting upon this new experience that I have gained, I can compare and contrast it with my previous experiences and gain a detailed understanding of the methods I employed in handling the work processes throughout the project.

*Reflective Observation:*

Reflective Observation is significant in checking for any inconsistencies between the actual experience and understanding. I can look through this idea from the issues and incidents that have arisen during the project. This was evident when our work was postponed owing to the illness of a team member. The actual experience was quite different from what we perceived at the beginning of this journey.

*Abstract Conceptualization:*

Reflection gives rise to a new idea. It can also make us modify an existing abstract concept. In our project, there were instances where the project was going in a entirely new direction. For example, initially we thought of making an android application for our client who owns a trading company that provides logistics and supplies grocery to the restaurant food chain. When we started designing the mockups for our android, we thought that a website could serve the purpose better and help keep track of the database that our client provided. Our project then went in a completely new direction and we made a website for the final application. If we reflect upon that core idea now, I feel we can add in several key features that will integrate the application with the client database and provide a functionality for future implementations and developments of the company.

*Active Experimentation:*

The project gave me a chance to actively experiment on the core ideas I had, and to implement them in a real-world scenario. When I reflect upon this concept of experimentation, I feel it greatly helped me in analyzing the end results of our work. This is critical for any project as gauging the results can only be gained through experimentation on a live project. We can only surmise the results without experimenting on an actual working project whereas a live experience can give us a concrete result to study and build upon for future modifications.

Basically, reflecting upon the experiences of the project gave me an understanding of my own skillset and their application in a real-world scenario. Without this personal reflection, the experiences that I have gained through the project have no concrete platform to build upon them.

By generally reflecting on the individual issues I have encountered, I can clearly identify the problem and propose a solution based on my personal experience. This can be summarized in a three-step process,

* The problem I have encountered
* The action I have taken to solve this problem
* The result of taking this action

This will give me a clear understanding of the situation I was in and how I tackled the problem in getting the final output. This kind of interpretation is extremely beneficial for my professional life as it gives me the scope and understanding to deal with a similar situation.

(ii) A report and evaluation of the team work component of the project. This should include what you learnt

about working in teams, what you learnt from other disciplines in teams and how that impacted on your

professional development.

**Team Work:**

My team comprised of three members. We have individual skillsets that helped us during the working of the project. I believe, this was critical and essential in making our project a success. My task was to design the template for the website and work on the documentation based on our client’s requirements. Another group member, Fadni , was in charge of research and user stories. Based on his research, we updated our application with the We were like different spokes of a wheel running the same machinery. Our individual tasks were different, but we were cohesively working towards the same output.

Our team leader, Sandeep, was proficient in coding and programming. However, owing to his illness, he was unavailable for a few weeks. This caused a considerable delay in our project management. The onus fell on me to act as a support system in breathing life into our project.

I had the added responsibility of

*Communication tools used:*

We used several communication tools like WhatsApp and Git hub to update our progress on the project. Every little task we finished was pushed to the git hub and the other team members could check on the progress. I shared the necessary information on the group chat we created on WhatsApp. This was our primary channel of communication.

(iii) An Overall Reflection on how your professional identity has developed throughout the project.

A template and further details regarding the reflective journal can be found in PebblePad.