**Module 2 Journal**

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**Code Review**

**Introduction**

As I continue to work on the capstone project for the Bachelor of Science program in Computer Science, I will take a moment to reflect on the importance of code review. To guide my reflection, I will be answering questions to prepare for the code review itself and identifying how I will complete the code review.

**What is Code Review?**

Code review is the process of examining each layer and aspect of a software system’s architecture and source code. This can be completed in person, virtually, recorded and consist of individuals, pair programmer duos, or an entire team. This review looks through the actual code manually, although there are tools that can assist with the review.

### **Importance of Code Review**

This aids itself by reducing and catching errors early, finding areas that stray from documentation, allowing the opportunity to share the information the code evokes, and allowing for input from collaborators. Code review is an essential part of the software development life cycle. Without code review, much time might be lost due to technical debt, lack of adherence to best practices, and lost hours for each potential team member spending their own time to review it in an individual manner.

### **Code Review Best Practices**

The best practices for a code review includes reviewing throughout development process, setting up a frequency of reviewals, keep the reviews small in scope, utilize checklists to help hit each area needed, leave room for feedback, and use automation tools to assist in the review. For example, allow for the linter to catch syntax errors rather than relying on the reviewers. Using these tools leaves the bandwidth available for other code aspects.

### **Recording Software**

The recording software I will be using is OBS Studio. OBS is a free and open-source software that I am familiar with. It will allow window and screen capture alongside live audio commentary. This will allow for a smooth code review process.

### **Approach to Outline, Script, and Checklist**

The approach I am taking to create an outline is to plan, writing down the major aspects of what my code review will be centered on. I will create a story board type flow chart to help usher the code review along smoothly, leaving room for further explanation if it feels organic to do so. Using the outline, I will also include script bullets to help me speak to the code and review overall throughout the process. This leads nicely to a checklist, where I will be able to check off each major area, item, and area of the code review to ensure I have covered each major area planned for.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, code review is an essential step to the iterative cycle of the software development life cycle. Code review fosters a chance for growth, code improvement, learning opportunities, and boosting the quality and security of the program. As I work on my capstone project, I will integrate code review to ensure the plan is on track, mistakes are not being made, and that each facet of the software has the chance to shine in its full potential.