



Creating a New Future Through Code

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Professional Development

SUMMARY

Last year in March, I became a lead developer on a software project under the management of Alex Garcia. infoTouch, a point of sell company located in San Antonio, TX, requested that the Development team create a module that follows a meat processing business through each stage of meat processing. As a lead developer, I had to generate a plan for the new module by listening to what the client needs, researching different approaches that can be taken with our current framework, developing the new module, and communicating how the new module operates through demonstrations. My main goal for this project was to gain more experience on building a project from start to finish and to provide a profitable product for infoTouch. Although I had a significant role, every detail had to be approved by Alex Garcia and the team before any programming was completed. As a whole, the project and its success is attributed to collaboration of the Development team and I am incredibly blessed to have had a role in the project.



SPICES

The experience embodies Professional Development as shown through the collaboration between different departments, meticulous planning, and timely execution of the project. I am pursuing a future in software development, so by working in a software company I have begun to understand the business side of development and how skills learned in class are utilized to complete projects in the actual work field.

HERBS

The experience incorporates the personal ethics of honor, resilience, and support. During the project I would work overtime to complete portions of the project within the time frame requested by the client and infoTouch team in order to fulfill promises that were made. In addition, I practiced resilience by continuing to work on the project, despite setbacks and miscommunication. The final personal ethic I practiced was support as demonstrated by how I take on assignments my other team members have, in order to reduce their work load.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

While participating in this experience I reached the following learning outcomes: Project management, Intellectual Dexterity, and Team/Independent Learning and Decision Making. The team and I developed the module by listening and watching how our client's business runs. Then evaluated the framework of our current software and created modifications, so that we can be compatible with how a meat processing business functions.



IMPACT

This experience has impacted my life by preparing me for future opportunities and helping me grow professionally. By being a developer on the Meat Processing module, I have not only refined my current abilities, but additionally attained new skills and understanding. While working on the project I have learned the importance of communication, time-management and documentation. Some of the skills I have gained include: database creation and management, how to integrate new functions with an existing foundation, and customer service. This experience has brought me out of my comfort zone and changed the way I understand software development. infoTouch has been impacted from this project by expanding the company to a new industry and allowed the Development team to begin setting standards on how new projects should be developed.

ADVICE

For aspiring software developers, I advise that you have confidence and faith in your skills and what you believe should be done. Throughout development projects there will be obstacles and not everyone will see your vision, but if you are patient, communicate, and work hard you will succeed. Remember, that software development is not just about coding but it is about bringing an idea to life.