

Lessons from the Capstone Project

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Abstract

The capstone project is a many-sided task that plays the role of climaxing educational and mental skills. It is mainly at the end of a term of an academic program or the last year of the program. It is also known as a senior exhibition. There are similarities between capstone project and thesis. However, it is long-term and takes various sorts. Capstone projects aim at growing the skills and talents of learners through practical ways. Skills such as planning, time management, excellent communication, and networking are among a few that are learned in capstone projects by students. The project also exposes students to various trends such as cybersecurity for information technology related tasks.

Keywords: many-sided, academic program, finishing outcome, skills, trends.

Lessons from the Capstone Project

After choosing our career, it was interesting to be set out for the capstone project. Before we set out for the project, we expected it to be challenging, and everyone wanted to score the highest grades. We also expected to have a chance to apply practical skills that we learned in solving community problems. Our supervisors were supportive, and they encouraged us like our team members more than as 'judges' as anyone would expect; their advice, guide, and pressure all led to successful completion of the project.

The capstone project not only gave us a chance to be creative and participate in problem-solving but also instilled other values of competent people to us. One of the many proficiencies we gathered is time management. The projects that we did were set to run within a given period. As learners, we were meant to keep the indicated time without failure. First, we had adequate time to select areas to learn, afterward, we came up with a time-bound implementation plan. We were required to follow the time allocated to each task to the latter to enjoy maximum success in the capstone project. Through this rigorous exercise, we acquired critical skills in time management. Right now, we are good time planners, both as individuals and while working in groups.

Secondly, good communication skills were a crucial lesson that each of our team members picked from the capstone project. Good communication helped us work smoothly and without conflict. Communication was needed when doing investigations into various fields. Interviewing people during various surveys needed us to apply interpersonal communication skills. Effective communication came handy at such times. As we communicated among ourselves, we made recommendations. When communicating with other people, we gave

instructions and brainstormed on how to forge forward. Our communication skills were sharpened, including not only knowing when to talk but also when to keep quiet. Besides, we learned how to be compassionate to each other.

Networking is essential for any capstone project. We needed people to help us investigate various subjects. We had chances to interview people in various specializations. The search for social networks among ourselves as well as with other people of the community equipped us with networking skills which will help us in future for instance when looking for jobs. The lessons to learn from social networks are limitless. Every system comes with skills from different specializations.

During handling matters IT, we picked up a very rare lesson on cyber security which is an increasing trend in the world of technology. Cybersecurity will shape the future of many companies and institutions. It will affect the daily operations of many institutions. We gained skills on how to position ourselves in the event of cybersecurity, and mechanisms to keep information systems secure from unauthorized persons.

Fulfillment of every capstone project takes effective planning and implementation of those plans. We came up with ideas which we used as a guideline in doing the project. The programs also served as a standard for measuring our success as far as the project was concerned. Through the planning process, we learned skills on how to make plans even in our personal life. It surely was an experience to always keep in mind.

Conclusion

Cybersecurity in the maritime industry is a trend which is being fueled by worldwide growth in technologies every day. Recently, with the growth in digitalization, the marine trade has been shifting its operations to mainly depend on internet networks. The use of technology has eased communication in the maritime industry which is probably one of the most crucial activities that happen in naval commerce. However, together with the efficiency that comes with digital business data coordination, a major concern on cybersecurity continues to grow in the sea business. Ships depend on information systems for navigation, steering, energy production, propulsion, communication, and nautical security, among other uses. All systems used for the above roles are potential victims of naval cyber-crime which could, in turn, lead to devastating consequences, both in and out of a country.

Cybersecurity qualifies as a major trend in the sea industry since, in the modern world, there is nothing that is more dynamic than the use of the internet and other technologies. The speed at which digitization has happened in daily activities of the nautical sector also poses a time bomb that can be exploited negatively by ill-wishers. More needs to be done before it is too late since so far, only government defense operatives in the sea take the threat of cybercrime in the wide waters seriously. High profitability, increased efficiency, and sharp competitiveness are advantages that could keep the maritime industry unfocused on the potential disasters that could come with the massive use of technology without proper systems to audit and keep such interactions secure.

It is as easy to destabilize ship information systems as to insert a USB flash drive in a port and the whole ship is entangled in a mess. Satellites can also be used to compromise internet

networks used in port infrastructure that could potentially cause losses amounting to millions of dollars. More action needs to be taken, e.g., building ships that are structured to sense threats to its information systems, and alerting various authorities on the same. Backup and restore systems, as well as alternative manual procedures, should be kept close in maritime activities, just in case their cybersecurity is compromised without notice.

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