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Introductory Text
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IT599: Applied IT Master Project

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8/4/2015

**Introductory Text**

 The purpose of the Introductory Text is discuss three assignments that will be essential to my own career goals. There are three main steps to this final assignment. Step 1 was to choose two assignment from the IT599 course. Step 2 was to choose one assignment from any previous course. Finally, in Step 3, these collected assignments were to be submitted to the Optimal Résumé Program Portfolio. I have attached the three chosen assignments, and briefly discuss the relevance of these assignments below.
**Assignment 1 - Ethical, Legal, and Social implications**
 My IT Project was about the implementation of Bitlocker. In Assignment 1 (from IT599), the main objective was to explore the ethical, legal, and social implications of our project, in my case that was Bitlocker. I believe understanding how Bitlocker affects more than just the computers it is meant to protect, is highly important to my career. Part of my job is to manage Bitlocker, thus the study into ethics, law, and social implications can impact how I personally administer the encryption solution. For example, one significant thing that I learned in this assignment was that encryption is viewed differently around the world; not all countries are in favor of encryption. This particular piece of information will be useful when our employees travel outside the country. Of course, the study of ethics and overall social implications of Bitlocker have their own intrinsic value. Ethics and how technology impacts people is not only important to Bitlocker, but to all technology in general. I will carry this bit of knowledge with me for the rest of my life.
**Assignment 2 - SDLC & Project Management Life Cycle**
 In Assignment 2 (from IT599), I researched SDLC and the Project Management Life Cycle. As a developer myself, I am no stranger to SDLC. SDLC is a methodology which uses a phased approach to system and software design. This methodology can be used to leverage a well-known, organized method to creating, implementing, and maintaining new technology-based systems. I will personally use SDLC to create higher quality software. When considering the Project Management Life Cycle (PMLC), I really did not have all that much experience using it in the real world. The project cycle is about understanding the details of a project and how to gain the most from resources. When the PMLC is paired with a well-known methodology like SDLC, the positive effects can be exponential. PMLC will enhance the planning, implementation, and quality of output of the project. After researching just how practical the PMLC can be, I plan on adding some of the functional components to my own daily processes. This knowledge will impact my career in that I now have new tools I can use in my daily tasks.
**Assignment 3 - Information Systems**
 In Assignment 3, I really wanted to go back to the beginning of the Master’s program. So, I decided to select an assignment from my first course, IT500: Critical Concepts and Competencies for the IT Professional. I decided on Information Systems. The reason I selected this specific assignment was due to the intense writing requirements. Honestly, I did my best writing in the first few courses. The basic structure of my program was a lot of textbook, writing based courses, and then a lot of lab based courses. In the lab based courses, there was some writing, but mostly, the focus was on completing lab driven projects. In the writing courses, I really pushed myself to write academically, increased the verbosity of my assignments, and tried to adhere to APA guidelines. My assignment *Information Systems* was less about the subject of the paper and more about the style. Let me explain why I think style is equally important as content. Being in IT for some twenty-one plus years, IT people are not really known for their writing skills. Much of what we do is brief, either in an email, an instant message, or short technical documentation; all of which is the opposite of academic writing. In this third assignment, I believe I was given the opportunity to break through the IT writing barrier, and truly began writing in a style that I was proud of. Writing is a crucial communication tool, one that I was seriously lacking in. Kaplan, over the years, has allowed me to hone my writing skills and increase my writing proficiency. This IT500 assignment is proof that I have gained a valuable skill.