

# SWOT Analysis

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## Strengths

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At my time at Florida State University, I have not only learned a variety of technical skills, I have learned a lot about myself. I have learned to be a better leader and have enhanced my written and verbal communication skills. I have worked in many groups where I have taken a leadership role. These experiences have made me a better leader and have given me more interest in working with teams. Coming into college, I was weary of group work. Now I look forward to the chance to work with others. By working hard in my groups, and in all my classes, I have earned a cumulative GPA of 3.9 in all course work attempted. With having two part-time jobs and going to school full time, I have learned to be timely, dependable and I have greatly learned to manage my time. I feel that managing time and being able to plan ahead are some of my best strengths. When I have gotten the chance to lead groups, I have enjoyed the opportunity to break down a project into manageable parts. These projects have taught me a lot about project management and managing people with different working styles. Since I am detailed orientated and I am continuously making sure everything is in order, I would make a good candidate for a project management position.

On top of the aforementioned strengths, I would consider myself to be a critical thinker who enjoys solving problems. This drive to solve problems is what has made me so interested in usability. There are so many designs out there that have a great deal of problems that need to be fixed. I have become very knowledgeable with usability and interaction design guidelines. I also have worked with end users in order to receive critical input that could be used to make designs better and more usable. I have also taken my knowledge of usability guidelines and have coupled them with my understanding of HTML, XHTML and CSS to create simple, usable web interfaces.

## Weaknesses

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Some people may be weary or hesitant to talk about their weaknesses. I feel that knowing your weaknesses and working to correct them is a big advantage. In fact, I feel that it is easier for me to discuss my weakness than it is to describe my strengths. By disclosing your weaknesses you show that you are willing to work hard and better yourself. With this said, I understand that changing flaws, especially ones that are related to bad traits, is not something that is easy. Some of these weaknesses have been rooted for some time and only hard work and patience will help me correct them. By understanding and discussing my weaknesses, I feel it lets me know what I need to focus and work on to not only be a better person, but to be a better employee.

When looking at my weaknesses I realized that to change any of them will require a lot of work. Most of my biggest weaknesses do not come from a lack of skill but from bad character traits. One of my biggest weaknesses is that I tend to be a perfectionist. Now some would say this may actually be a strength. I do not wholeheartedly disagree. However, even though at times it can be my best strength, it sometimes

hinders me from just completing the job and moving on. So, at times, it can be my biggest weakness. The perfectionist in me sometimes also causes my second weakness to flare up. My second weakness is my temper. My temper may be a very large weakness that could be potentially catastrophic to me. For the most part though, as I have worked more and had more experience, I have learned to control this better. The more experiences I have, the better I will be equipped to handle things and as such will be less likely to get angry due to the stress of a new situation. Even with that said I must continue to control myself and remember that regardless of the situation, showing my temper is potentially hazardous to my career.

Some of my other weaknesses are my pessimistic view of things, my high level of paranoia and lack of certain specific technical skills. I am predominantly a pessimist. This could also be potentially bad. Growing up, my father always said to maintain a positive attitude. For the most part, I never saw the point. However, as I began to work and gather experience, I began to realize that it is always good to have a great attitude regardless of what may be going on around you. When problems begin to occur around me, I tend to expect the worst and I assume Murphy's Law is in effect. This sometimes causes me to get down and can affect my performance. This may be the hardest weaknesses to correct as it is something I have had most my life. I may not be able to fully change this trait, but I feel that I can improve this so that it will not affect my ability to complete my work.

I also tend to be very slow to trust others, or as I would put it, I am very "cautious." It takes me a very long time before I feel comfortable enough to trust someone. I am hesitant to depend on people. This weakness could prove troublesome in a leadership role, and could potentially affect my goals. However, through the many team work opportunities I have had in college and at my job, I have slowly learned to let my concerns go and put trust into my other teammates. This was mainly due to the fact that with my busy schedule, I learned to depend on others to complete their share of the work so that I did not overload myself.

Finally, I recognize that there are some technical areas that I feel I am very weak in. Although I have worked a bit with networks, databases and high level programming languages, I still feel I am behind others job candidates in these departments. I have not really worked with these in the field and have no real work experience with any of these technologies. My lack of database knowledge could hinder me in some jobs. A lot of companies have large amounts of data and databases are slowly becoming a must. Even though I have worked with some small networks, I have never installed any major networks which would include installing routers, running cable and implement security. Finally, I have very little knowledge of high level programming languages such as C++ or Java. The same applies to web scripting languages such as PHP or ASP. Granted if I pursue my goals as a usability analyst or web designer, these skills may not be needed, but I do feel you need to know these skills to an extent so that you may work with the engineers or administrators who will have to develop the final product.

## Opportunities

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Through my time here at Florida State University and through my work experience, I have learned that there are many opportunities out there that can help me achieve my goals. I have had the opportunity to work with many professors who have not only instructed me, but have been great mentors outside of class. These instructors are a great networking connection that I have that can be a great advantage for me. They have access to many people they have worked with in their time, and they may know someone in need of my skills. Also, these instructors have encouraged me to pursue an even higher education. Obtaining a Master's Degree would not only give me access to greater knowledge, it would set me apart from other job candidates. Outside of school, I have had the ability to work with many people at my current job, allowing for even more possible connections. My current boss has many connections across the state, making him a very good resource as well. The networking possibilities are not the only opportunities available to me. I will have a degree from a prestigious university, in a field that is ever growing and expanding. This growth shows that the industry will be in demand for some time, meaning I know I have job security as it seems that more and more jobs are beginning to rely on technology in some way. By doing my best to capitalize on these opportunities, I feel I can gain the competitive advantage over the competition.

## Threats

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Regardless of the career one chooses, there are always outside threats from unseen forces. The information technology field is no different. As technology becomes a vital part of practically all companies and organizations, the demand for IT grows. This means more people want to be a part of this growing industry and thus it has become heavily competitive. With this rise in competitiveness, it is becoming very challenging to stay ahead. As new technologies emerge, I will need to acquire new skills or update current skills to meet the new demands. Others may have already learned this knowledge from the beginning and will have the advantage over me. As these companies expand, a major practice is to outsource jobs. Outsourcing has recently become a concern in this industry as more and more jobs are being moved over seas. On the other hand, some companies do not require much IT, only requiring it to stay alive. As such, some of these companies have low IT budgets and will simply keep the jobs local. That is something I must consider. By understanding the threats ahead of time, I feel I can work to avoid as many of these as possible and will be able to achieve great success.