

Reflection on My Internship at Ahooga

Introduction

Over the course of thirteen weeks, I completed my internship at Ahooga, a company specializing in urban mobility solutions. During this period, I worked on the development of an AI-based assistant designed to support the company's after-sales activities. While the project itself was technically challenging and rewarding, the internship offered much more than technical experience alone. It provided an opportunity to develop professionally, improve soft skills, and gain a better understanding of how technology is applied in a real business environment.

Looking back, this internship has been one of the most valuable learning experiences of my studies so far. It allowed me to move beyond academic exercises and work on a project with real users, real requirements, and real business value.

Technical Growth

One of the biggest areas of growth during the internship was my technical development. Throughout the project, I worked with technologies and concepts that were much more complex than anything I had previously implemented independently. I gained practical experience with cloud services, AI models, information retrieval systems, APIs, data processing, and system integration.

More importantly, I learned that building a successful solution is not only about making something work technically. A large part of the project involved understanding user needs, organizing information effectively, improving reliability, and continuously testing and refining the system. Many solutions that seemed correct at first required adjustments after feedback or real-world testing.

I also learned how important experimentation is when working with AI systems. Unlike traditional software, there is not always a single correct solution. Different approaches often need to be tested, compared, and improved before finding the most suitable result.

By the end of the internship, I felt significantly more confident working on larger projects, understanding system architecture, and approaching complex technical problems in a structured way.

Professional Growth

Beyond technical skills, the internship helped me better understand what it means to work in a professional environment.

One of the biggest differences between school projects and professional projects is responsibility. During my internship, I was trusted to make decisions, manage parts of the project independently, and solve problems that did not have predefined answers. This required a different mindset than simply completing assignments for a grade.

I learned the importance of communication, both with technical and non-technical colleagues. Throughout the internship, I regularly explained progress, demonstrated features, discussed ideas, and gathered feedback. I quickly realized that being able to explain technical concepts clearly is just as important as understanding the technology itself.

The internship also showed me the value of collaboration. Even though I worked independently on many tasks, the project benefited greatly from discussions with colleagues, feedback from users, and guidance from mentors. Learning how to ask questions, listen to feedback, and adapt solutions accordingly was an important part of the experience.

Personal Development

On a personal level, the internship challenged me in several ways.

One of the most important lessons was learning how to deal with uncertainty. There were many moments where I was unsure whether a particular solution would work or whether I was moving in the right direction. In those situations, I learned to trust the process, continue testing, and focus on steady progress rather than immediate perfection.

I also improved my time management and organizational skills. Balancing development work, meetings, testing, documentation, and project deadlines required more planning than I initially expected. Over time, I became better at prioritizing tasks and managing my workload more effectively.

Another area of growth was resilience. Not every idea worked as expected, and some problems required multiple attempts before finding a solution. Instead of becoming discouraged when things did not work immediately, I learned to view setbacks as part of the development process.

Perhaps the most valuable lesson was gaining confidence in my own abilities. At the beginning of the internship, some aspects of the project seemed intimidating due to their complexity. However, by consistently learning, adapting, and solving problems, I realized that I was capable of handling challenges that initially appeared beyond my comfort zone.

Looking Back

When I compare my skills and mindset at the start of the internship to where I am now, I can clearly see significant growth. The internship strengthened my technical knowledge,

improved my communication skills, and helped me develop a more professional approach to problem-solving and project management.

It also gave me a clearer understanding of the type of work I enjoy and the areas in which I would like to continue developing. Working on an AI-focused project confirmed my interest in artificial intelligence and software development while also showing me the importance of combining technical expertise with communication and business understanding.

Conclusion

Overall, my internship at Ahooga was a highly valuable experience that contributed to my growth both professionally and personally. Beyond the technical achievements of the project itself, the internship taught me important lessons about responsibility, communication, adaptability, teamwork, and continuous learning.

The experience helped bridge the gap between academic learning and professional practice, giving me greater confidence in my abilities and a stronger foundation for my future career. I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to a meaningful project, learn from experienced professionals, and gain insights that will continue to benefit me long after the internship has ended.