

5. Risk Assessment and Mitigation

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A. Introduction

Introduction

- The risk management process can easily be broken down into 4 simple stages. The first step is to identify all possible risks and categorising these risks with 4 different headings (technology, people, requirements, estimation) ^[1].
- The majority of these risks will be based on and associated with our requirements, with each requirement being paired with a risk in the requirements table.
- The risks of people will be associated with the commitments and involvement of people within the team and the people involved with the project.
- Technology risks relate to issues with software and hardware and will be based on the justifications made about our chosen architecture and the technological requirements.
- Estimation risks will deal with the deadlines not being reached and how these situations will be handled. The risks will be identified as a group using our requirements, our understanding of the architecture that we have chosen and the overall plan for the project (the lifecycle model and work distribution) as a basis for risk identification and judgements about each risk.

Justification

- Each risk will be given a likelihood and severity (on a scale of low/medium/high) based on how likely the risk is to occur and how bad the effect of each risk will be. These variables will state how each risk is managed. This exercise will depend heavily on the personal judgments of the team members associated with the risks.
- The management of risks will involve coming up with plans to avoid and mitigate each risk and also have a contingency plan in the event that avoidance and mitigation are not enough to sustain the development of the project. This will require additional planning and heavy discussion between team members in order to come up with the most optimal solution to each problem and avoid any major disruption within the overall project plan.
- Once a plan has been made for each risk, the people associated with that risk will be assigned as risk owners who will regularly make changes to the severity and likelihood of the risks depending on their judgement and involvement with the risk. The changes to the risk analysis will be reported during weekly meetings by the risk owners so that team members are inclined to not neglect monitoring risks.

B. Risks

| People | | | | | |
|--------|--|------------|----------|---------------------------------|---|
| ID | Description | Likelihood | Severity | Owner | Mitigation |
| rP1 | Website designer becomes unavailable | Medium | Medium | Tom | Attempt to inform the group and have someone else with website design skills to cover up the work |
| rP2 | One or more programmers are unavailable | Medium | High | Sam | Attempt to warn the group and do as much work as possible in advance, if not temporarily assign second person to work on their code |
| rP3 | Whole team becomes occupied/busy (e.g. due to exams) | High | Medium | N/A | Reduce workload for the week and redistribute work to next week |
| rP4 | One or more people can't attend a meeting | High | Low | The people who miss the session | Report the completed work in the group chat before the meeting so that the work done can be accounted for |
| rP5 | Low morale/burnout amongst team members | Medium | High | N/A | Distribute work to accommodate team members who are burnt out or reduce workload for the week |

| Technology | | | | | |
|------------|--|------------|----------|-------|---|
| ID | Description | Likelihood | Severity | Owner | Mitigation |
| rT1 | Game is overly processor dependant/drains battery | Low | High | Ben | Research into optimisation methods that utilise other aspects e.g. utilising the gpu |
| rT2 | UI/Game library does not support customer hardware | Medium | High | Omer | Check before using that the software is compatible. Research into other libraries as back up |
| rT3 | Game window not mapped to monitor correctly | Medium | High | Adam | Know the specifications of the monitor prior to the event, or if not possible, have the game window in a fixed size |
| rT4 | Bugs found within the | Low | Medium | Tom | Work around the bugs as best |

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|-----|--|-----|--------|-----|---|
| | game library | | | | as possible, if they still prevail consider changing library if necessary |
| rT5 | Bugs found within programs external to game | Low | Medium | Ben | Work around the bugs as best as possible, if they still prevail consider changing tools |

| Requirements | | | | | |
|--------------|--|------------|----------|-------|--|
| ID | Description | Likelihood | Severity | Owner | Mitigation |
| rR1 | Game is not suitable for target audience (children and possibly parents) | High | Medium | Sam | Remove content from the game until suitable for targeted demographic, gain second opinion to help get perspective |
| rR2 | Input that gives player unfair advantage is found | Medium | Low | Omer | Identify the code giving players access to feature and and revise/remove it |
| rR3 | No support for controllers in time for deadline | Medium | Low | AJ | Attempt to work on controller support parallel with keyboard controls, else avoid working on if higher priority task incomplete |
| rR4 | Game does not accommodate colour blind players | High | Medium | Sam | Change the colours selected for assets and sprites, ask for opinion from colour blind test users |
| rR5 | User finds game too difficult | Medium | High | N/A | Remove unnecessary content, reduce health of enemies and/or increase player health |
| rR6 | Game takes longer than 10 minutes/ less than 5 minutes | Medium | High | Adam | Re-adjust character speed (increase/decrease travel time between points on the map accordingly) |

| Estimation | | | | | |
|------------|--|------------|----------|-------|--|
| ID | Description | Likelihood | Severity | Owner | Mitigation |
| rE1 | Sprites are not completed in time for initial implantation | Medium | Low | Ben | Use placeholder sprites until sprites are completed |
| rE2 | Team coding ships and | Medium | Medium | Tom | Ignore none essential functions/ attributes else, implement |

| | | | | | |
|-----|--|--------|--------|-----|---|
| | functions/procedures is underestimated | | | | simple/abstracted replacement for it |
| rE3 | Bugs and error handling takes longer than expected | | | AJ | Either assign more people to help, or if not possible, prioritise with other elements of work |
| rE4 | Covid prevents team from co-operating in person | Medium | Medium | N/A | Move to an online format, whilst still attempting to use our XP model |

References

- [1] Sommerville, I., 2015. *Software engineering*. Boston: Pearson, pp.644 - 652.