

Reflections

The process:

1. At the beginning of the project

Even though we gained knowledge and skills about system integration thanks to the various classes covering numerous topics, there seems to be little clarity about the final project's requirements at first. To make sure we are aligned and clear on what the main goal of the project is and be on the right track for planning how to get there, we had to both discuss the requirements within the team with the partner group and also ask questions to the teacher. We have started with the overall system architecture, discussing services, technologies and protocol used. Then we looked at each service in detail in order to identify the tasks that were needed to be performed and the dashboard where we would keep track of the status that each feature has been created. We decided to split up the work in such a way that everyone would work on a specific feature and would be responsible for it.

2. The halfway point

The architecture proposal was evolving until the final version. The reason was that once we started implementing different services we gained an even deeper understanding of the requirements. It was clear during this time that our skills were improving, since some of the topics were brand new to us. Fortunately, many of the topics included in the final project were introduced to us in class or we could find more information online or in literature. Even though we encountered several blockers or implementation issues, we continued to meet regularly to address these issues so that the project could move forward.

3. In conclusion

Prior to the system integration course and the final project, we mainly focused on developing single systems without too many dependencies. As a result of collaborating with another group and meeting the requirements of the project, our systems had to be designed in a way that enables the various parts to communicate. Documentation is normally not the most exciting part of a project, but since the documentation was the main guide for the partner group while integrating, it needed to be done intensively. The collaboration with the partner group went smoothly, and the materials needed for integration were exchanged on time. With the partner group, we had the opportunity to discuss the project and mutually explain the solution structure, as well as clarify certain unclear parts to avoid misunderstandings. Retrospectively, it is clear that the communication methods could have been established and defined more precisely at the beginning of the process, so we could keep track of each other's work even more consistently. To conclude, throughout the project our internal team work went well as we communicated and interacted with each other quite often - at the beginning we spread the tasks, so each member has level of responsibility during the process, this strategy paid off and we were eager to help each other in case it was needed and exchange the knowledge to fulfill the common goal. Despite the extensive amount of work to be completed, we were satisfied with the level of contact we maintained with the partner group and with the final result of the system we created.