Planning and reflections for assignment 1

Task 1

Subtask A Books

Planning

By dividing the task into even smaller subtasks it becomes easier to both get an overview of what needs to be done and to estimate the time for each task based on my experience of doing similar tasks before. It also makes it easier to make sure that nothing will be forgotten in the implementation and the time estimation.

Order	Subtask	Est. time
1.	Create module. bookList.js	1 min
2.	Add and export a function returning a book object. (id, title, author, genre, publish date, price and description)	3 min
3.	Find the information (id, title, author, genre, publish date, price and description) for a list of books.	10 min
4.	Create an array of book objects.	5 min
5.	Import the module to GetBooksResource.	3 min
6.	Naming the function. (getBooks)	1

		min
7.	Console.log out the result.	1 min
*	Take vagrant reload time and eventual hick ups into account.	6 min
	Total estimated time	*30 min*

Implement

Time log: 19:45, 30 January, 26:06 min.

Reflections

The planning was separated into two tasks. The first one was to list all of the steps to implement the feature and then trying to estimate the time for each task. The time estimates were added together and included some extra time for vagrant and eventual problems that might occur. The final estimate was quite close to the actual implementation time but some of the time estimations were too short while others were a bit long and the implementation was done in a bit of a rush. Next time I'll add some extra time for each task just in case. Even though the steps are numbered I realized during the implementation that I needed to jump from 1 to 5, 6 and back into the right order to be able to see that the implementation was done correctly. For the next task, I need to order the steps better.

Subtask B JSON

Planning

Order	Subtask

		Est. time
1.	Turn the array in bookList into a JSON Object.	5 min
2.	Turn the array in bookList into an Object.	2 min
	Total estimated time	*15 min*

Implement

Time log: 12:40, 31 January, 2:43 min

Reflections

I followed the same structure to plan the task as I did on the first one. The only difference was that I included the reload time as well as the eventual mishaps in the time estimation for each step instead of having it as a separate time estimation. I felt fairly sure about how to turn the array into JSON there for the time estimation was quite low and most of the time was there to make sure that the reload time was not going to ruin the time estimation. Fortunately, everything went to plan and I managed to keep the time restriction.

Improvement Strategies

By starting to make time estimates about both planning and reflection and not just the implementation I will both get more experience of time estimation and also better knowledge about how long the task actually takes rather than just the implementation. It's a good thing to have longer time estimations in case of eventual problems. So far nothing to mayor has interrupted the work but something unexpected might occur. Personally, I'm quite a time optimist and I think it might be a good thing to at least double my initial time estimation as a contingency.

Subtask C Web

Planning

The implementation is quite straightforward there for neither the planning nor the implementation will take too long. The thing that probably takes the longest to do is the reflection. This task will probably in total take 1 hour to finish. 15 min planning, 15 min implementation and 30 min reflection. The table below is the planning of the whole task.

Order	Subtask	Est. time
1.	Planning	15 min
2.	Call the callback function with the bookList.	3 min
3.	Make sure it works by checking the output on the site	3 min
4.	Fix eventual bugs	9 min
5.	Write reflection	30 min
	Total estimated time	*60 min*

Reflection

Both the implementation and the planning took a shorter time than expected. In total it took 10:35 minutes to plan and implement the feature including fixing a bug where I realized that the key to the publish date was formatted incorrectly. This is probably a result of having a clear idea on how to solve the solution, some of the planning happened during the planning for the whole task and the minimum estimation is 15 minutes. Even though the time estimation was way off this seems to be an improvement strategy in the long run since a task is much more than just the implementation and it's important to be able to estimate

the whole task from start to finish.

Task 2 Vision

Planning

Writing the vision document is a bigger task that will take a longer time to both produce and plan. When it takes a long time it also has a greater risk of being interrupted and there for taking even longer time. With that in mind, my initial time estimation is 4 hours effective time spent on the task but it will probably take 8 hours from start to finish. Start 13:00 Fri 2nd. Finish 17:13 Fri 2nd

Order	Subtask	Est. time
1.	Planning the subtasks.	15 min
1.	Research what to include in a vision document.	90 min
2.	Go through provided information to find out the current vision.	60 min
3.	Write the vision.	60 min
4.	Write reflection.	15 min
	Total estimated time	*240 min*

Reflections

The during the planning stage the plan was to create the vision document with a more of a waterfall approach but I ended up working more in iterations. I started with reading about vision documents and what it needs to include. I mostly skimmed through the texts first and

then went back to it during the time that I wrote the vision. I found this easier because I didn't need to take separate note or remember too much information at once. Instead, I could write the vision and make changes if needed. It did affect both the planning and the time tracking since it was hard to always remember to pause and start the different time trackers while rapidly switching between the different subtasks. But the total time is still correct. The time estimate turned out to be really pesimisitic since it only took 134 minutes effective time and the real time were closer to my estimated effective time.

Task 3 Project plan

Planning

Planning will take a lot longer than previous tasks to make sure no part is missed and more research is needed before I'll be able to write the document. Estimated time is 60 minutes for planning and 4 hours in total.

Order	Subtask	Est. time
1.	Plan task.	60 min
1.	Identify constraints.	10 min
2.	Identify risks.	10 min
3.	Analyse risks.	15 min
4.	Identify activities.	15 min
5.	Identify milestones.	15 min
6.	Identify resources.	15 min
7.	Create a schedule.	30 min
8.	Write introduction.	15 min

9.	Write project organization.	15 min
10.	Write risk analysis.	15 min
11.	Monitoring and reporting mechanisms.	15 min
12.	Write reflections.	15 min
	Total estimated time	*310 min*

Reflections

It's hard to write a proper project plan as it's usually meant to include a lot of people and other resources that need to be structured and included in the project plan. In this case, the circumstances are a bit different since the project only includes one person as well as it's recommended to try different processes which is rarely the case in a real project. My first estimated time was closer to the actual time spent then the one done during the planning. It's probably a combination of adding some extra time per task as a contingency as well as I started thinking about the content while writing the planning which reduced the actual time spent on several of the subtasks while writing the project plan.