# Group Reflection

What went well?

Immediately there was a connection between all members of our team. This had a tremendous positive influence on the outcome of our assignment.

The steps that the team took to achieve what was required were very well planned. We initially set up our first meeting to discuss and set out a weekly agenda and how we could tackle each component of the assessment. We then worked out how many weeks were required to submit our assignment on time and set out to achieve a certain number of goals within each weekly meeting, ensuring that we reached our targets.

What could have been improved?

The only thing that the team thought of and agreed upon, was that we felt we could have improved our communication at times. Although we were regularly meeting in person and communicating through Microsoft teams, there were times when additional assistance could have been offered to team members.

We set out our weekly tasks during our face to face collaborations but didn’t really have a quick online progress collaboration throughout the week. Through these sessions, we could have identified if anyone in the team was struggling or if anybody in the team had scope to do extra work.

**One thing that was surprising**, was that within the first week, we lost a team member, and then also realized that we had a remote team member (we all thought everybody was from Brisbane). However, the team wasn’t discouraged and went about with progression on the assignment by splitting up the workload that was initially to be done by six team members. We knew that we had options such as Microsoft Teams and Canvas / Discord to include and collaborate with our remote member and quickly set out to the task at hand without hesitation.

**One thing we learnt about groups was**, that it doesn’t matter how distanced people are nowadays, coming together as a team and collaborating on a project is a relatively a simple task to achieve with the correct tools available and properly utilized.

The team had a lot of quality discussions which assisted us to staying on track and getting through the workload within the timeframes set. Knowledge sharing played an important role in our success and we all felt that we learnt a little bit more about various aspects of IT.

One of the team members is a regular user of Git and assisted the team in using GitHub, all the while showing and explaining how GitHub worked and how to make it effective. This proved to be invaluable for the team and the learnings we took from it were beneficial for us all.

## Darren’s reflection

Working in the group assignment proved to be a positive experience. From the first meeting with the initial four people it was clear that we all had similar interests and understanding in Information Technology.

I felt myself the least skilled and knowledgeable of the group which was fine as the support and patience from my peers was exceptionally reassuring and appreciated. Those who took leadership roles had done so organically based on high levels of knowledge and experience while remaining respectful and supportive to those who fell into followers positions.

The team meetings were well structured with an agenda while at the same time proving to be friendly encounters. The team was flexible with who could volunteer to take on specific tasks and we were always open to hearing change suggestions.

Team communication outside of meetings was a strong factor that made this group work as we shared contacts via email and setup a collaboration group in Microsoft Teams.

One of the more challenging aspects of this group assignment was working with one of our team members not based in Brisbane. We overcame the distance issue with video calls and electronic communications.

I found the team to be a great bunch of individuals and if in the professional world we would form a great ICT team.

## Charlon’s reflection

Group assignments can be quite a challenge, especially when we are grouped with complete strangers. The greatest empowerment in starting a brand-new team is ensuring that the team itself can overcome the behaviour, attitude and personality traits of each team member. The team must focus on the goal, raise and resolve issues, work towards an outcome that will play with the team’s weaknesses and strengths, ensuring that the team will complete the tasks that they have been given. Our group, Brisbane IT Crowd, stayed within the grounds of being a professional entity. We were able to gather as a brand-new team to work cohesively, encasing ourselves to collaborate on a weekly basis, meeting up as a team and focusing on even deeper to complete our assignment. We are a strong team; playing on our strengths after losing a team member and surprisingly didn’t affect the mechanics of our team. As a team, we have managed to overcome issues which we had resolved quickly and as a team, we empowered each other to complete the tasks at hand. It is a rare occasion when an activity in a group can be a success, but most of the time when it does succeed, it is since each member of the team truly appreciate that we value each other’s goals and accomplishments.

## Andrew’s reflection

There is always some trepidation when first starting a group assignment, and this assignment was no exception. However, this apprehension was soon allayed during the first meeting between four out of the six team members. It became clear almost immediately that the four students were committed, conscientious people. This may have been partly due to all of us being older and that we had all been working for some time in various organisations.

The collaboration and positive outlook of each person was the primary reason that the group has worked so well together. Everyone has been completing their assigned tasks, and where required, provided assistance to other members of the group when asked.

The most surprising part of the group was the ease with which everyone got along. It was very refreshing to encounter similar personalities that gelled well together without any conflicts. Everyone was open and accepting of different points of view, resulting in group decisions being made quickly and efficiently.

While one or two members were not communicative, and proved difficult to engage with, this did not hinder the progress made on the assignment, with any slack taken up eagerly by other members of the group.

## Paul’s reflection

My reflection is one of admittance and admission, due to work commitments such as the ASA for a remote site turning up 24 hours late. I have been pretty much incommunicado for most of the project and feel bad for, as Andrew puts it the “slack” that needed to be taken up by my colleagues. I regret that I was not able to be more collaborative and share with the group my industry experiences and learn theirs. I am also hoping that the group allows me to make up it in the last sprint.

What went well?

Everybody seemed to get on great, there was no conflict of egos or any other issues

What could have been improved?

To be honest my availability to the rest of the group

One thing that was surprising was...

I cannot think of any surprises really, we just seemed to get in and gel as a team, actually that is quite surprising

One thing the group learned was...

That the world of IT can be a fickle mistress, but we can get around that with minimum effort.

## Lee’s reflection

What was surprising?

Is that I am glad much of the group all live in the same city. This has made collaboration a surprisingly simple process and enabled us to meet weekly in person to discuss, review and complete stages of our assignment.

What could be improved?

While this has been only achievable for those of us meeting in person, with collaboration environments such as Microsoft teams we have had moderate success to fully include and collaborate with the remaining team member.

One of our other team members pulled out of the team early in the piece and we didn't get the opportunity to work with him.

What went well?

We all got along extremely well, we worked together well, and most importantly, we achieved everything required in a timely manner.

Our focus was succinctly on the team goal, and as such, the whole team chipped in tirelessly and remained fully committed to ensure the success of the team.

I feel comfortable in the knowing, that we have the ability to be able work together openly and transparently to discuss any issues that we encountered with the subject content.

One thing I have learned about the group was the knowledge of differing IT fields from each team member was vast, luckily we has a member with GitHub experience and through him I managed to learn more than i ever would have on my own.

I think that our team has remained committed and focused and I look forward to collaborating and working with the guys on future assignments.