

Retrospective Essay

For the past months, I was given the opportunity, together with a group of colleagues, to create a start-up within the scope of the Project Management Laboratory curricular unit. I already knew most of the colleagues I was randomly matched with and felt that the company development and project would progress smoothly.

The first problem we faced was the position assignment within the startup. We didn't know each other in detail to be able to make a separation of work that would fit the entire team. We were also unsure about which type of work we would be doing, because, at that point, we only knew that we would be developing a project for a client, and were not completely aware that we would need to form a company between us. We decided to give ourselves C-level titles; fortunately, that was the right decision, because it gave a clear separation of work at the company level.

Our client, João Fernandes, was a major positive of our project, by always being available to provide feedback and always being calm. We provided the best product we could offer and were also motivated by him to perform better. In contrast, during our last meet up with *à tona*, we were able to get a glimpse of the client side of the transaction. The meeting lacked the professionalism we had with our client and that affected our company choices for outsourcing from that time on.

Finally, the work load for the duration of the curricular unit was unbalanced, given that most of the work, company and project, was made in the later stages of the semester and most of the groups were outsourcing requests to the other companies, which made them saturated with work. In the end, we finished the project with a hefty amount of LGP coins still to be used.

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