Journal Smart Mobile

# 30th of August, 2018

Today we had our first lesson in Smart Mobile. Our teacher told us how this year was going to be and made us choose between Android or iOS development. I chose Android, because I have an Android phone myself and I would like to start using the apps myself after I have made them. We then started getting everything in order to start working, like setting up Git and downloading Android Studio. Later we were tasked to make our first own app, but I ran into some problems with my emulator, so I will finish the task tomorrow. After the lunch we had an UX workshop, but other media students and me quickly discovered that this was something we already had some experience with, so our teacher recommended to just start building our apps. We started by writing down ideas and we will continue thinking about new ideas tomorrow.

# 31st of August, 2018

Today I started with the POC – Basic App tutorial. It took me a while to finish it, because my computer wasn’t in the mood today. In the afternoon I worked on the layout assignments and almost finished the CSI app. The only thing I couldn’t figure out is how to get back to the first screen, because my app kept crashing whilst still using the method described in the tutorial. Hopefully my teacher can help me next week.

# 6th of September, 2018

On this day I learned about how to handle hardware with Android Studio. I first started with a SMS Manager. This took a while to finish, but I ended up making a working app. After that I also made a WiFi Manager and a Location Manager. I plan to use these apps for when I forget how to use these functions. I had some problems making the Location Manager, but it turned out this was because I forgot to ask for permission.

# 7th of September 2018

Today my teacher told us to start working on the SMS Manager exercise, but I had already finished it. He then asked me to show my code on the screen and he was exited that I had managed to make the app work. After that I helped some other students with making the SMS Manager app and after that I started working on the Data Persistence exercise. This turned out to be harder than I expected, mostly because the explanation was unclear. I eventually managed to write and read a file after asking the help of the teacher. After that I decided to make an app that shows you the history of your SMS messages. Right now it can only save the phone number in a .txt-file, but I will finish this app during the weekend.

# 13th of September 2018

Today Marcel asked us about our duo app. I’m working together with Dylano and our plan is to make an app based on your location. The app will tell you when you discover a new, interesting location. Earlier we asked Chris and Evert their opinions and they both liked it. Evert mentioned that we should focus on what makes us different from other apps. Marcel told us that it was a good idea to start working on our app right away, but we both decided that it would be a better choice for us to do all the smaller assignments first. After the feedback I finished my SMS-History app.

# 14th of September 2018

Today I worked on the assignments for web service. Dylano and me both struggled a bit with this assignment. Both of us managed to make a link between our app and the Firebase database, but only Dylano managed to do the Firebase authentication. After following a tutorial my app still doesn’t work. I’m having trouble with the onClick-event for some reason and I will ask my teacher about it next week.

# 20th of September 2018

Today I solved the problem I had with my Firebase application. It turned out that the onClick-event was fine, but that I just loaded the wrong layout. After that I continued with the tutorial. I learned how to sign in with email and how to upload your username and profile picture to Firebase. I also encountered some problems with retrieving the photo-url, but this was solved when I looked at it again when I was at home. I also received feedback that my portfolio was in order and that the idea for our duo-app was approved.

# 21st of September 2018

On Friday Dylano and me decided to first finish the tutorials we were busy with before brainstorming about our app. I finished the tutorial and now I have an app that can sign up by using your email, log in and log out. I can also upload a profile picture and set a custom username for the user. This data is uploaded to the database. In the afternoon Dylano and me worked on the concept of our duo-app. We made a MOSCOW-analysis and we both started working on our own interpretation of the app. We will show them to eachother next week to compare them and then make a test-project in Adobe XD

# 28th of September 2018

Today we compared our two version of the app. We both made our own version and made comparisons between them. Eventually we decided on the final design, but this design was not finished yet. We decided what things we would like to know about our app and made a small test plan. We are going to use this test tomorrow

# 29th of September

Today we spent the day working on our design. We conducted our user tests with different people from our group, which made clear that some decisions about the app were not as clear to them as they were to Dylano and me. We changed this, but we still had to do a bit of work on our design before we were going to start programming.

# 4th of October

Today would be the last day we would spend on designing. The only part left to change was something about the achievement page. We asked others their opinions and made changes accordingly. The problem was that it was not clear how to track achievements, but we solved this with an overlay. We also spent the day designing our logo and visual style.

# 5th of October

On this day we started programming. We talked about what we wanted to work on and after that we went on to start working on our app. I would look into the notification system, while Dylano worked on making a working menu. We both had some problems, but we solved it. I made my Notification-testing app in a separate project, which you can find on my GitHub. Later I will combine it with the app we are working on together.

# 11th of October

Today I started making the dialog template that will open whenever you open a location. It took me all day, but it works! I can open the dialog with the press of a button, but you can also call the dialog with something else, obviously. We will use it to display the context of the POI. For now I will keep this in a separate app, but later I will implement it in our duo app.

# 12th of October

On this day I worked on adding the custom fonts to our own app and using these fonts I made a sign up and log in page. It all works with Firebase. A user now has to either log in or sign up using email to use our app. I also started working on the profile page, but I needed to fix user log in first for that. I will finish the profile page after the holiday.

Holiday from the 13th of October until the 21st of October

# 25th of October

This week we learned that we had much less time for our app than expected. In hindsight we were planning an app that was way too ambitious for what we have learned until this point. We wanted too add too many things in too little time, so it was time to take another look at the MOSCOW-analysis and decide which parts we wanted to keep. We decided that the most important feature was the detection of new locations and placing markers on the map. The rest of the day I spent working on the bottom navigation bar.

# 26th of October

This day I finished working on the bottom navigation bar. I had many problems with this, because Android Studio uses all these standardized icons and functions for the bottom navigation, but we wanted something different. I managed to finish it, but not in the way we envisioned it earlier. Still, we’re satisfied with the result. I then worked on adding a profile picture to the profile fragment and letting people change their username and picture in the app. I finished this during the weekend.