

Group reflection - Porto

How was the communication in the group. What was good/bad?

We feel that the overall communication has been good, and have had general agreement about the big decisions in the project. The whole group has met in person every day throughout the project, and everyone has been available for help and questions. We have used Discord to communicate with each other, which made it easier to communicate when working individually. The ScrumMaster role has also contributed to good communication and understanding by checking in on how the team is working when individual tasks are done. Another point in the communication has been getting feedback from the group on individual work. Everyone is interested in helping each other and wants feedback from others to create a better solution.

However, in the beginning we made all the decisions as a whole group. We found that this was not an efficient way to do it. Therefore, we chose to split into smaller groups and gather at the end to discuss the solutions. We have also experienced that the communication from Høyskolen Kristiana has been somehow insufficient. We have gotten information in many ways and not gathered in one document. Some things were written in announcements, some were said in Q&As or video, and some were written on Mattermost. This has made an impact on how we work, because it has been hard to collect and find all the information given for the exam.

How has the distribution of work been within the group?

We had a few problems in the beginning of the project, which affected the division of labor. The communication between the designers, idea creators and programmers were a bit unclear, which caused the programmers to redo their code several times.

Therefore, it took a lot more time than expected. Because of the poor planning the programmers had to wait for the designers to be done.

Overall, the ScrumMaster (SM) had the overview of how to structure the meetings and what needs to be done. The SM has also made decisions about the prioritizing of tasks. The tasks started on a more general level at the beginning, but were split into specific tasks to make the workflow more agile. The team members could choose which tasks they wanted to carry out.

To what extent do you feel the solution reflects your current professional competence?

The whole group have been challenged to learn new ways to carry out their work. We have gotten a new perspective and worked on different areas of the project. We have been affected by the structure of the way the exam was given to us. By this we are referring to that the exam does not specify requirements for each field of study. In particular, the cybersecurity students felt that they did not get to show their competence, because the exam did not require security measures. Overall, everyone in the group has worked on areas that are not specific for their field of study.

What will you do differently the next time you have a project?

There were a few elements that could be improved to the next project. Among these was the use of GitHub. We didn't use GitHub continuously, and because of that we had troubles with connecting and gathering the code at the end.

To the next project, we also need to focus on improving the planning. We did the application from start to finish but started working on different elements. This created problems later on, when the code was gathered. The parts that are connected was difficult to do in the right order, and resulted in waiting for some of the programmers.

It is also important to find out the location where the project will be carried out. Such as booking study room. We have moved around quite a lot in this project, because we did not plan where we wanted to do the project.

What are the three most important things you have learned during the project?

The three most important elements for this project has been planning, trust and communication. We have improved our planning skills a lot in this project. At the beginning, our planning was poor. We did not plan enough and added more tasks along the way. We improved the planning in the next sprint and understood more about how to plan in agile. This made us more flexible and gave us a structured way to carry them out.

In the Design sprint everyone wanted some control over the project, which resulted in everyone wanting to make decisions and to be included. We figured out that this solution did not contribute to a good workflow. We therefore chose to split the group and have focus areas, trusting that the other participants did manage to do a good job in their area. Because we managed to trust each other we made a better product, and manage to do a lot of work in a short period of time.

The communication between the team members has been very important to the result of the project. We have cooperated well and listened to each other's ideas. Since we worked in smaller groups, we consulted with each other for feedback and advice.

Other?

By meeting in person every day, we have learned how to structure our work. We have also learned how to work efficiently both remote and on site. Our overall understanding of how an agile project works and how to plan for sprints have been improved. We have also improved our time planning and how to prioritize the tasks. The insights from different fields of study have given us a more holistic understanding of a project.