

All I Want [for Christmas]

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Reflection and Review

Team Reflection

Evaluation of the project a from team planning perspective.

What went well:

- We did a good job of prioritizing core functionality, both in deciding what should go into the MVP, and in completing functional extended features prior to the early code submission, with only smaller details to wrap up later.
- The division of labor was fair. Where the workload was slightly unbalanced, we made up for it by having those who completed their tasks early chip in to help those who had more to do.
- We did a great job of encapsulating tasks so that each person worked primarily on one section of the website from end-to-end, meaning that we had few problems where one person's work depended on another's, or where one person's code significantly impacted another's.

What could have been improved and how:

- We had a bit of a rush trying to get our MVP to deploy properly by the deadline, as we ran into unexpected problems with Heroku and had to switch at the last minute to OpenShift. This problem could have been largely avoided had we deployed much earlier and continued deploying at regular intervals as the code changed. We did much better at this after the MVP.
- We ran into issues with Gmail and sending large quantities of emails. We sent so many emails that Google froze the account, which backed us up a bit. We could have had a better understanding and management of the email volume throughout testing.
- We put off testing and error handling longer than we should have. We did testing throughout, but didn't write formalized tests as early as might have been useful. It makes it easier to implement and verify in the future to keep up with both of these things as we code.

Lessons Learned:

- Deploy early and regularly when there are deadlines involved.
- Plan on things being more complicated than we think they will be. (Especially when using new libraries/frameworks.)
- Maintain detailed specifications of what functions and routes take in and return, to make it simpler to utilize and debug later on.

Peer Reviews

Constructive but candid evaluations of teammate performance.

Reviews by Cristhian:

- Dirk
 - Dirk tackled all of the tests for our app in all phases. He worked alone on a lot of things including the accounts page and did an awesome job getting it done. He was quick to fix his bugs and was quick to pick up and use methods created by the rest of us to get his section done. Despite his tight schedule he finished his tasks on time and was able to pick up tasks I was not able to get to.
- Kristin
 - Kristin is pretty much the modal master. She (along with Tricia) did a lot of front-end development but also did a lot of the backend. She created a lot of routes that were fundamental to the functionality of the page. She also did a lot of debugging (I frequently asked for her help) and was essential in getting the app done on time as she did extra work past her assigned duties.
- Tricia
 - Along with Kristin, Tricia did a lot of the front end and visual effects for our page. She was consistently sending reminders to the team to meet deadlines and consistently finished her work quickly. Tricia did a lot of work with the public page and the search functionality. She was also a great resource to help debug my errors.

Reviews by Dirk:

- Cristhian
 - Cristhian was very persistent in working on long and complicated tasks, such as email notifications and deployment to OpenShift. He fought through difficult issues that came about in implementing these features. He had a great work ethic and put in a lot of time in a very timely manner. He was a great overall team member.
- Kristin
 - Kristin took on quite a few tricky front-end issues and won several major fights with CSS. She was generally one helping keep the rest of us on track and on top of things, and has an attention for detail that made our app quite a bit better. She was a great team member overall.
- Tricia
 - Tricia was in charge of a bunch of front-end features that made the app function. Her focus on writing good code and maintaining standards was helpful to everyone. She was very helpful in debugging issues and generally understanding how things operate. Overall, she was a great team member.

Reviews by Kristin:

- Cristhian
 - Cristhian volunteered to take on a bunch of the backend tasks, some of which involved working with additional libraries, and deployed our app. These were all things that we knew would likely not be easy, but Cristhian was very diligent in debugging issues and getting things up and running. He was also responsible for doing a lot of the setup and user authentication work that needed to be in place before the rest of us could work on our sections, and was very timely and reliable in making that happen.
- Dirk
 - Dirk contributed the accounts page, and did a lot of testing and technical fixes for the routes functions. He did a great job of debugging some of our more difficult issues (even in functions written by others) and writing routes code that was properly threaded. His accounts page turned out great, although because he worked largely independently from Tricia and I on the main wishlists page, these two are implemented pretty differently. That was fine for the scope of our project, though the three of us could have worked together to make things more consistent.
- Tricia
 - Tricia and I worked most closely together, as we were both contributing to the main wishlists page. Our collaboration went incredibly smoothly, greatly thanks to Tricia's organization of helper functions in encapsulated files and religious documentation standards. Tricia also took on the public wishlist page, which required a lot of extra effort.

Reviews by Tricia:

- Cristhian
 - Cristhian took on the responsibility of a number of the important back-end pieces of the site, and dealt with some really difficult issues in the process. He did a good job of getting all this setup working in a timely fashion so that the rest of us didn't have to worry about it. He had a good work ethic for his other tasks as well, and was generally a good team member.
- Dirk
 - Dirk was generally a good, contributing member of the team. He took on an entire page of the site on his own and implemented some complicated pieces to make it work extra nicely, in addition to doing a huge portion of our testing. My only (minor) complaint is that his schedule was a little tighter than would have been nice, so sometimes he had to postpone his work on this project, but that can't always be helped, and he still got it done on time.
- Kristin
 - I worked closely with Kristin on the main wishlist view, and the whole process went very smoothly. We were able to communicate and divide tasks up

effectively, so there really weren't any points of confusion or things that fell through the cracks. She implemented her assigned parts well, and helped pitch in on the longer parts after she was done with her own. Overall, she was a good contributor to our team.