UNIT 8- EVALUATION

Product evaluation

Athens Inc. a Kenyan fashion company owned by Feisal Hasham had a problem and sought a solution, they approached me with the problem at hand and asked for my help due to my expertise in the tech world. They wanted to expand their brand and attract more customers through the internet, as the world migrates into a digital one, Mr. Feisal didn't want to be left behind. So, the idea was for me as a project manager to handle the product's development process and to have a fully functional website that could carry out some transactional features.

This was my first project, quite difficult, but was successful at the end. I think the product met all the requirements and stood up to the client's expectations. The planning of the project was critically thought about and was carefully planned, the timeline was a 90-day period and luckily, we were able to work under that timeline and still have a successful product. All required tasks were done and put in the project plan, they were all done exhaustively and done with precision. Time was not a constraint in this case, this was because we decided as a team to bur the midnight oil and work through Sundays.

This was put in order for us to work for more days with a reasonable number of hours on each day. This gave us flexible working times and the conditions were not restrictive, we were able to work on the project separately and in the comfort of our own working conditions. With input from all of the working staff we were able to combine efforts and give each other feedback on what we thought of each other's input. This is because we all have extensive knowledge in this field and are able to work on any part of the project and give creative criticism on the progress.

Although the project was considered a success there were a few hiccups along the way that put a bit of lag in the working schedules, but were overcome in the long run. I as the project manager had to carry most of the load in assuring all the tasks were carried out and completed on time. The product's financial expenditure had been discussed and agreed on. But there was a bump along the way as we had to go over the budget and use some of the caution money put in place, the extra money was used to purchase some extra camera lenses to be used for the photo shoots and to hire a drone to take some footage for the company's video, this was supposed to give the video a more authentic feel.

Key success criteria evaluation

I found the easiest way to evaluate the success of the project would be to measure it against the objectives given in the project definition document.

Resources must be used efficiently and with maximum output: While there was no shortage of resources, I as the project manager felt that at times, I had over-assigned some resources hence the project was not as efficient as possible even though it was completed on time.

All milestones must be achieved: All milestones were achieved with exceptional quality, in time.

The product must fulfill all the client's specification: The client, Mr. Timothy Burr expressed his delight with the product in the end of project review meeting and confirmed that it had successfully met his specifications.

The project must be completed on time: The product and all the deliverables were handed over to the client well before the project deadline.

Overall I can say that the project was a success because;

- The project was complete before the handover date
- The feedback on the prototype was taken into account and the product was altered to make it more effective.
- All the project objectives were accomplished.
- All the designs were handed in on time and approved on time.
- There were several documented formal review meetings during the project
- The informal meeting minutes were recorded and handed in
- All the project plans and revised plans were recorded including the CPA (Critical Path Analysis)
- All the milestones were achieved
- All the tasks and subtasks were complete on time and the time duration was upheld
- All the documentation was successfully approved on the due date

Strengths and weaknesses

Strengths

- Effective time management: The work done in this project has always been in time and there has always been leeway in the event of emergencies so that delays are completely counter acted on.
- Documentation skills: The documentation for the product required a lot of detail and personally I felt that I did an above-average job in this respect.

Weaknesses

- Lack of experience: This was my greatest weakness for this project. Project management on this scale was relatively new to me and I had to quickly adapt to this new situation. With more experience, there would be less project plan changes and time needed would have been slightly less.
- Resource management: While the project was still over budget, I felt that in some cases I may have over allocated resources. In this project, this had little effect on the final outcome, but in future cases, this may not be so.

Personal evaluation

We are expected to personally evaluate our work, I would love to say that I did the best and that there were no flaws in my work, but that would be wrong. As of the end of the project I still think there was a lot more that could have been done to make this project worth.

I think that my strongest value was in the planning, I was able to allocate enough and efficient time for each activity and have each of them finish by time. Even with some days when some of the employees were absent, their share of work was compensated for. None of the resources were wasted or used not to the advantage of the project. I can confidently say that the team I chose to work with put in all their efforts into the completion of the project.

From this very tasking experience I have learnt that not everything will go as planned and that there will be some rough edges on the way, and the only way is to get up and keep moving. For one I was not pleased that we had to go over budget for a drone, but it was all for the sake of the project. In any journey that one embarks on there will be lessons learnt and skills picked up on the way, Project management being one of the most important skill I learnt on this journey. It has helped mold me as a future leader and has prepared me for the outside world. Product development and Multimedia Design is also one of the skills I learnt from this task, it has broadened my knowledge on design and website development. Dealing with Mr. Hasham was a very important task, it has boosted my confidence and public speaking skills and also how to deal with fellow employees keeping in mind that we are all moving in the same direction and no one is above the other (I accomplished this by splitting all work equally). This project has given me the critical skills and valuable experience required to continue with project management in future.

Peer reviewers

Technical reviewer: Chand Ashani- with his somewhat extensive knowledge in this field I chose him to give a professional view on the product. He was quite pleased with the work that I had done, but gave a suggestion on the hover section of the menu bar, and said that I should use different hover techniques.

General reviewer: Shyona Mahboub- a very close friend of mine who I knew would give thorough criticism. She liked the product in general, but suggested that the colours should have been brighter to attract the eye of the customer. Also suggested that the video should be bigger than is.