Project Documentation

Useful feedback in the Ampersand parser

Lessons learned

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1 Introduction

1.1 Identification (D)

This document is the thesis of the project 'Useful feedback in the Ampersand parser'. The document is the final product of the project phase 4 for Daniel S.C. Schiavini and Maarten Baertsoen, as specified in the project planning [?].

This document is part of the graduation project of the computer science bachelor at the Open Universiteit Nederland. The project 'Useful feedback in the Ampersand parser' has been executed in collaboration with support of the supervisor Dr. Bastiaan Heeren and examiner Prof.dr. Marko C.J.D. van Eekelen. The assignment was given by Prof.dr. Stef Joosten, who researches how to further automate the design of business processes and information systems by the development of the Ampersand project.

1.2 Goal of this document (M)

The main objective of this document is to depict the project's research objectives, process and results. This document explains thus the requirements, the design and implementation decisions taken for the development of a new Ampersand parser.

1.3 Document overview (D)

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2 Planning

2.1 Original planning

In the original planning [?], two kinds of deadlines have been identified: development iterations and project phases. The project phase deliveries were scheduled as follows:

- 1. Phase 2 Task allocation and Project plan 2014-11-13
 - a) Delivery of the detailed project plan
 - b) Detailed allocation of tasks within the project team
- 2. Phase 3a Domains & Techniques 2014-12-17
 - a) Delivery of scientific article by Daniel Schiavini
 - b) Delivery of scientific article by Maarten Baertsoen
- 3. Phase 3b Research context
 - a) Detailed report of the 'research context' 2015-04-29
- 4. Phase 3c Design & implementation Last iteration on 2015-04-08 (see below)
 - a) Analysis & design documents
 - b) Test report
 - c) Source code
- 5. Phase 3d Project documentation 2015-05-04
 - a) Project documentation document
- 6. Phase 4 Project closure and final project presentation
 - a) Project essay 2015-05-20
 - b) Project presentation date to be jointly determined, final due date 29/05/2014

Besides, the iteration deliveries were planned on the following dates:

Date	Deliverable (s)	
2015-02-04	Delivery iteration 1	
2015-02-25	Delivery iteration 2	
2015-03-18	Delivery iteration 3	
2015-04-08	Delivery iteration 4	

Table 1: Realization milestones

2.2 Planning evaluation

Just after delivering the project planning, one thing was clear for us: we planned too much. During the planning phase, we took both too long to deliver the document, but we also spent too many hours doing so. We also promised a more formal approach than it was requested by the customer and supervisor.

Happily though, we had kept a good track of the time spent in the project from the beginning

on. Although we spent almost 150 hours in the planning and preparation phase (expected: 40 hours), we then had gathered so much information about the project, that we could immediately begin with the implementation.

The planned amount of 15 hours of work per week came to be too much after some changes in our personal life (e.g. new house, new work, sickness). We were hardly being able to work 10 hours per week in the project. Therefore, we could not reach most self-inflicted deadlines. In Table 2 we summarize the planned and actual delivery dates.

Planned date	Phase	Delivered on
2014-11-13	Phase 2: Project plan	2014-11-29 (+16 days)
2014-12-17	Phase 3a: Domains & Techniques	2014-12-16 (Daniel, -1 day) and
		$2015-02-05 \; ext{(Maarten, } +50 \; ext{days)}$
2015-04-29	Phase 3b: Research context	$2015-06-11 \ (+43 \ days)$
2015-04-08	Phase 3c: Design & implementation	2015-06-08 (+61 days)
2015-05-04	Phase 3d: Project documentation	$2015-06-08 \ (+35 \ days)$
2015-05-20	Phase 4: Thesis	2015-06-16 (+27 days)
2015-05-29	Phase 4: Project presentation	$2015-06-30 \ (+32 \ days)$

Table 2: Planned and actual delivery dates

The delay in the planning was communicated clearly with the supervisor and customer. Since both were understanding and were not in a hurry to finish the project, just moving the deadlines was not a problem.

We had less time available than expected for the project; however, the time spent was in our opinion very fruitful and efficient. Since we believe we managed expectations well, the delay was not an issue after all. We also could not have known beforehand that our personal lives were going to change. In Figure 1 we show some relevant statistics about the time spent in the project.

Our evaluation of the planning is thus that it was well done, though extensive.

3 Assessment

In this section, we look backwards and explain why some decisions were taken. In 3.1 we show that we believe the new parser is an adequate improvement to Ampersand. Then, in 3.2 we focus on the approach, roles and collaboration within the team. Finally, in the sections 3.3 and 3.4, each of the project members go shortly into their experiences en learning moments.

3.1 Process (M)

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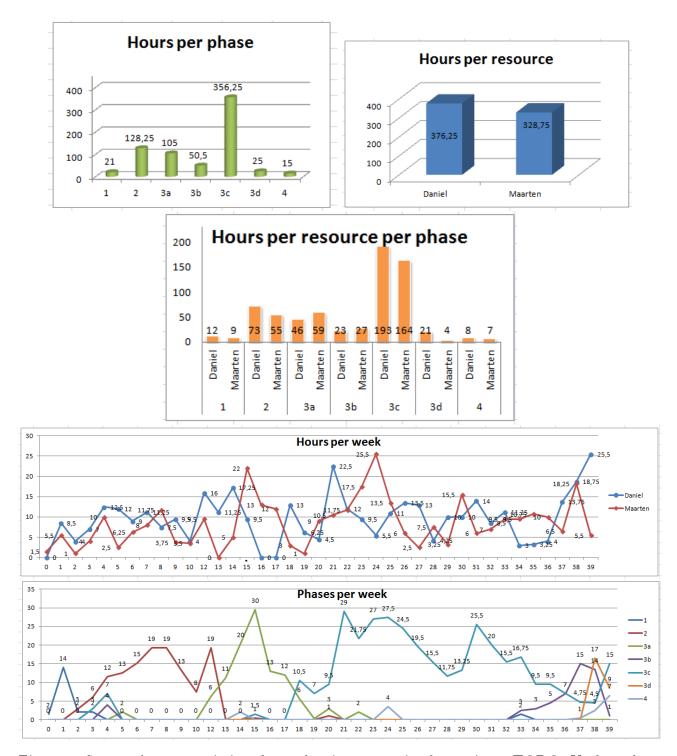


Figure 1: Some relevant statistics about the time spent in the project. TODO: Update these figures when done.

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3.2 Approach (M)

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3.3 Report: Daniel S. C. Schiavini (D)

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3.4 Report: Maarten Baertsoen (M)

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4 Conclusion and next steps (aanzet D)

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References

Academic references

Other references