CS 4400 Final Exam

Fall 2014

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Instructions:

1. Answer the questions
2. Bring a hard copy to the final
3. We will discuss them as a class
4. Then you will turn in the hard copy
5. Short answers! Fill the page, but don’t go over two pages.
6. What things did your project do well this semester?
   1. Our team communicated well together, and by that I mean we shared the load of responsibilities well. We knew what each other's strengths were and because of those strengths we were able create a pretty good project. Each member of the team provided what they could when they were needed. I think we also learned well, and I mean that by we learned the technologies that would make this project successful. We took what limited information we were given, and turned it into something pretty neat. This makes it exciting to be on a team that will produce something that should get put into production. This is quite the contrast from the beginning of the semester it was really cloudy on the scope and desire for the project. What this communication and work did was build trust. It helps to be able to trust that your team members will accomplish what is required. We were able to trust that it would be a quality product, not just hacked together. In my opinion it would be a great thing if all teams functioned as well as this one did this semester.
7. What things did your project not do well?
   1. Considering that this course is designed to teach us software engineering principles and processes, we did not follow a development process very well at all. The course requirements and assignments gave us ample opportunity to create charts, and track progress. Quite frankly, we made them for the assignments due but never went back to them. I think this hurt us in the end because it was a squeeze to get everything done by the deadline. We knew the deadline was there, but no one really knew how close we were to completing the walking skeleton compared to when it was due. No one marked to tracked any progress. We had some bug reports, and things we were tracking for version control, but that didn't give us the overall progress of the project. When we finally took assessment of that near the end of the semester, I realized that we were further away than we should have been at that point. In other words, we spent the time laying out a process and time line, but we didn't hold ourselves to any rate of progression, and it could have really hurt us in the end.
8. What things do you suggest that your project do next semester to improve?
   1. The first and obvious thing is that we need to track our overall progress better. However, I think the other thing that is really important to the success of this project is to keep our momentum going. This applies not only to the tracking of our progress, but also with our interactions with Provo city. We were really happy with the way that the Provo city team reacted to the walking skeleton, and I think we can get more of their team onboard with the project. To get more involvement we will need to be proactive in communicating with their team and getting their feedback and implementing it for the future. This translates into our need to track our deadlines better, and show progress at intervals throughout the next semester to the Provo City decision makers.
9. What things did you personally learn?
   1. When we spoke about project management and some of the techniques used to get projects to completion, it really stuck with me on a personal level that this is still about people and not just about code. The reason that stuck so much is that this semester was a big confidence booster for me. I learned that I'm not the weakest person in the room, and that my skills really can be applied to software development. I haven't been coding the longest, but I learned that those around me don't have all the knowledge and answers, and that it takes all of us to accomplish something. That may not sound like it applies much to the course, but confidence helps people want to contribute. It personally made me want to push hard for the project's completion so that my hard work can be used. Thus, I learned that my confidence has a lot to do with how much I'm willing to contribute to the project and finish the project.