

Reflections on the team

This project allowed us students to form a group of mixed individuals to work as a team, with either little experience from working with each other or none at all. All the members of the group looked forward to the task of working as a team and developing software together. There was a common feeling that working together brought almost only benefits to programming since you can tackle eventual difficulties as a group rather than struggling with them alone.

A central part in working as a team is communication. Our team communicated through having scheduled meetings two or three times a week where, except for reporting progress and planning the project, one could discuss eventual issues with the rest of the group for support and trouble-shooting. We used the meetings partly as a forum for displaying solutions and/or elevating current problems upon where you could bandy ideas with the rest of the members and use the collective pool of knowledge to exploring ways to reach a joint goal. Members agreed on having it this way, splitting the meetings into one static part and a dynamic part where the static part always consisted of a specific structure based upon the Scrum standard and the dynamic part consisted of discussing ways of achieving common goals. The not so formal communication happened through using IM-services such as facebook messenger or Google Talk, unless the group was gathered at programming meetings.

The group used a Scrum master to maintain this kind of structure and also decided on making everyone shoulder the role of the Scrum master at least once, so a new Scrum master was decided at the end of each week for the next week to come.

One fundamental part in working as a team is the feeling of trust. This is also one of the main differences between working on your own and working in a team. By working on your own you always know when you can get something done and when you can't, when you divide tasks amongst team members you need to trust each member with the task he or she has been given. In our group this has functioned well in most cases, mainly because of the regular meetings where one can get the chance of informing the rest of the group if the programming has hit a wall. Sometimes maybe some problems were not surfaced, which meant that a few features other members of the group expected to be done maybe always weren't so. This did not however bring the team down but instead ushered the members into utilizing the full group's ability to solve these problems.

Another issue that comes with working as a team is the difference of opinions between different individuals. Different mindsets lead to different programming philosophies, where some solutions are favoured by a specific set of people and other solutions favoured by another set of people. In our group we never really encountered any major problems on this particular subject. If someone had any reflections about a certain part of code this was brought up on the meetings and almost every time the two parties could reach a common ground, either using one of the solutions or a mixture of both in an attempt to reach the best outcome.

The team has also used specific days of the week to explicitly sit down and just program the tasks of the current sprint backlog. This has worked very well, resulting in the major part of the programming being completed during these sessions. One has had the opportunity to get direct input on what they are programming right at that moment.

When the project now has come to its end the group has an overall great feeling towards the work that has been put down and what it all resulted in. The major points of interests regarding team work the group has encountered follows:

- Good structure in meetings with possibility to raise issues or get help
- Great specific days of just programming in a group to get direct input on what you're programming right now.
- Easy to explore new ways of arriving at solutions by discussion amongst each other.
- Not getting something done on time maybe disheartened the group a bit but did not prevent us from eventually getting it done
- Different mind sets does not always equals hectic discussion of what is best but set in a bigger context with more inputs can lead to something even better.
- Communication worked overall good, when it did not work the issue at hand would be raised at a meeting.