Group Reflection

In this Group Reflection section, each member offers some personal thoughts on our

experience in group work and team building. We then offer a group perspective.

**Brian Dean**

I believe this group is outstanding, having come together fairly organically by placing

our names in an available group rather than scouting around looking for people of

like interests or in the same town or city. It is our diversity that allows us to present

interesting and unique points of view. We have worked well together on common

goals. As is evident by the differences in our ideal jobs and the blend of personality

types we each bring unique experiences both life and employment to enrich the

team. I believe our team meetings via web conference were particularly effective as

it afforded our geographically dispersed team the same access to live conversation

that students studying on campus would have. For the next project I will recommend

different project management tools as I underwent some frustration, with Microsoft

Teams and the addons, with getting a clear picture of where we were at. One thing

that did surprise me was the absolute absence of any conflict. The entire team were

at all times respectful of each others ideas and opinions and sought through dialogue

to form a consensus on the best approach to move forward. I have rarely found this

in commercial enterprises. One thing I have learned about groups is that sometimes

you can be really really lucky.

I look forward to working with all my new ‘mates’ on the next team project.

**Daria Sukonnova**

I really enjoyed working with everybody in this team. All members of my group are

very understanding and friendly people who are easy to negotiate with. There were

no problems with setting time for conferences, despite the fact that we live in

different time zones. I also think that our group did a great job using the Github. Due

to the good organization, it was easy to distribute the work among the team

members.

I was surprised by apps that our group used for organization and chat. They were

really.

Working as a team, I learned that it is essential to be able to express my thoughts

freely about different aspects of the project and to be tolerant and respectful to

everybody cause these things are significant for successful teamwork.

**Jeremy Naupay**

I have quite enjoyed the team work this group has shown. Seeing everyone in the

group being open to their own project ideas and ideas on presentation have been

amazing to witness. I have been amazed at everyone’s availabilities and willingness

to contribute new ideas. I was surprised with everyone’s involvement even though we

all live far from each other. Getting to understand the journey each group member

has been on to get to this point has been very interesting. Being in a group has opened

me up to different perspectives within the I.T industry. Allowing me to expand my

knowledge base and develop my skillset with team work. I believe we can improve

with a better project management system, as GitHub has helped in collating our

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information to a certain degree. It has not proved to be very useful with

communication in the collaboration process. We did use Microsoft Teams to improve

on communication within the team, but seem to have its own limitations with how

posts are organised. Otherwise, working with this group has been an enjoyable

experience and I look forward to working with such a good bunch of people in the

future.

**Shane Thacker**

As this is my first time to work with an online team for study purposes, so I was quite

sceptical and nervous at first that it would quickly deteriorate. I was quite concerned

that other students very quickly made teams from the get-go, and I didn’t have a

team.

Our team, “The G6 Internet Explorers”, came together quite naturally. We are all from

different cities and half of us in different countries. None of us is an expert or had much

to do with GitHub, so it was a group learning experience. We found common ground

using tools that we are familiar with such as Microsoft Teams and uploading Ms

Documents such as word and excel. As we developed our skills, we were “brave”

enough to edit singular text files on GitHub.

Even with time zone differences, we managed to all get together weekly then

biweekly and every other day towards the end of the assignment. Although our team

did not nominate a leader, one member was very helpful in starting the GitHub and

Teams site and hosting the meetings. During the meetings, all members were quick to

volunteer for tasks and I feel they were distributed evenly by agreeing with each other

rather than being delegated.

I have enjoyed working with my team and hope to work with them again in the future

and catch up for a drink one of these days. I wish them all the best with their studies

and careers.

At the end of the assignment, the active G6 Internet Explorer team members met via

web conference and discussed and agreed upon the following points collectively.

*What went well*

Overall everyone in the group agrees that communications went very well. All team

members acknowledged the fact that each other lived in different time zones, but

cooperatively we were all able to come together on a regular basis to collaborate.

G6 Internet Explorer members all quote that they enjoyed working with each other

and recognised that.

*What could be improved*

Our working knowledge of GitHub will need to be expanded as the process of

creating a text file which GitHub can version and then cutting and pasting into word

which GitHub cannot version duplicates effort and wastes time.

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A different project management tool such as Trello would have allowed us to be

better organised and have clearer defined milestones and deadlines.

*At least one thing that was surprising*

What surprised us all the most was the fact that all the members of our team

were composed of total strangers and we manage to work together effectively. Our

web conferencing sessions were genuinely useful and flowed smoothly, allowing

opportunities for each member to contribute. We were surprised that everyone had

the same expectations and made a genuine effort for the assignment.

*At least one thing that you have learned about groups*

Everyone in G6 Internet Explorers commonly agrees that we have learnt that working

within a team, composed of complete strangers, is not as intimidating as we first

expected.

Upon discussing each other’s reflections, that for teams to be effective, the correct

tools are essential. If it was not for our group texting platform (Ms Teams) and the web

conferencing platform (Zoom), there would have been significant breakdowns in our

communications and difficulty in expressing our individual opinions.

All of us agree that we can take from this experience that we have developed new

skillsets, mainly communication, that are not only essential for working within the

Information Technology industry, but also for any business or study environment.

We all learnt that even with our limited experience using GitHub, that the science and

method of the application in regards to version tracking and the ability for a team to

work on the same project, no matter their location, would be beneficial if not essential

for the IT industry.