Group Reflection:

Group 21 team comprised of 5 people which was a suitable size for this particular project to enable each person adequate involvement and learning experience. The team was a little delayed in coming together however quickly established itself after a MS Teams group was created and contact details shared. An initial kick-off conference was held and within the first few minutes everyone started to familiarise with each other, our geographic locations, interests, employment and commonalities. We had members spanning 3 different states from east to west coast, and a broad age group from early 20’s to early 40’s. Gender diversity was unfortunately lacking after a member of our team withdrew from the course due to personal circumstances, leaving an all-male group.

As we explored each other’s ideal jobs, we were pleasantly surprised to find good diversity of skills and interests. We each brought a unique IT interest to the table and almost all major areas of IT were covered in the modest team; this included hardware design, software development, database admin/analyst, systems admin and project/team management.

Analysing the various personality tests, there were commonalities and differences which reflected in our interactions during meetings as well as output. Adam was enthusiastic, proactive and decisive; Patrick.M focused on ensuring good communication and that everyone was clear on everything and all times; Jay had a strong eye for detail and willingness to take on tasks others were shy to attempt; Jacob is a logical thinker, to-the-point, and willing to help wherever needed, and Patrick.J enjoyed putting casual ideas out there, opening discussion and gaining feedback.

A minor challenge faced was the different employment hours of each individual, some working normal business hours, others night shifts and weekends. This provided only small windows of opportunity for meetings with a full team, one person would often be absent. Collaboration via mobile messaging and particularly MS Teams helped here, where people could login at different ours to check and respond to messages and discussions. The recording of meeting minutes were key to ensuring details were captured and shared.

Regarding tools, Office365 may have been a better platform for the repository than Github, as it allows multiple users to simultaneously open and edit the same document. We found with Github, everyone needed to upload many smaller documents with individual parts to all be collated at the end into a single document. In the few cases where we needed to contribute section to a single document, everyone needed to be swift and careful when downloading, editing, uploading the document so as not to overwrite another person’s work. Overall, the tools worked very well however and were effective in achieving the outcome.