Project Methodology

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In this report I will be talking about my work process and how I managed to get through the assignment

I started with looking trough the examples given on Moodle to try to get a better idea of how to execute this task. I was then told I could examine other fellow student’s work and take inspiration on how they may have used a slightly different method to solve the same task. However, due to the vagueness of the task assignment, there were many different interpretations of the task and as such the assignment had been done in so many ways – It was difficult therefore to ensure I had a clear idea of the task at hand or how to solve it.

I later sat down with the Linkedin again to watch the video tutorials. At the time this looked like a waste of time however it might have helped me structure my content as I was able to review the content with a new and more informed perspective. However, I must admit, due to the lack of clear objective points with this task it has made me uncertain throughout my process whether I was heading in the right direction.

I did eventually get my head around the concept of hypothetical user stories. I started with some brainstorming with the other members of my class for some “system musts” in order to make sure I considered as many different points as possible. Proceeding from this, I trialled two drafts from which I then managed to make the skeleton of the user stories. After I got home I continued on the user stories as part of my self-study and asked my dad to review what I had created as I aimed to make sure my project would be understandable and obtainable for someone with no project knowledge. Some of my feedback included that the user stories were to thin and needed to be more specific. For example, adding “as a customer I want to be able to search for products” is a touch too vague of a description so I added flavour, colour and bottle size (just to mention some) in order to add some meat to my work.

After I was done with the user stories, I started working on my Gant chart. I first made some basic phases and tasks as well as giving them unique ID’s and put them in a list. Then I made the week span for the plan on the Gant chart. Next, I organised the list of tasks and worked out the associated times for them. I continued by then making a small team for the project all with roles I felt were essential for the project. With all the workers created, then cane adding the work blocks for each worker to the Gant chart trying to make it as realistic as I could, ensuring the work times would be achievable for each worker while also making sure the deadlines for each part would be met. Once I felt I was a solid path I showed, my plan to some friends who have nothing to do with the course and no prior knowledge with the aspect of the task to see if an outsider would be able to make sense of my plan. I received back positive reviews was that it was easy to read and made sense for them which I took as a good sign – my Gant chart was practical and serving its designed purpose whilst remaining accessible to everyone.

My Gant chart doesn’t show all the subtasks that it could have, but I did this because simple design is easier for the “client” and “employees” to read and understand however, it might have given more of an overview to have all the sub tasks that could have been added within each task. Instead of cluttering the Gant chart with all the details of the subtasks for the workers I thought it would be more practical to provide a separate sheet to each worker providing more details on their individual subtasks. If I were to include all the details, I feel it would be a design flaw as I would be including excessive information on the chart that would be irrelevant to most members.

# Conclusion

In conclusion, I found this particular project hard to figure out. The confusion in both my tutor and fellow students due to the vagueness of the task made it hard to strongly grasp what was the desired outcome. Not wanting to blindly charge forward in the wrong direction, I took longer than usual to get my footing and plan out how to tackle this task. This extra planning time had a negative impact timewise as I was unable to dedicate more time to executing my plan. For example, things that I would like to have improved on include: - I could have added more details with regards to the sub tasks; - I would have liked to have spent more time on the creation of the Gant chart (while the way I structured my Gant chart was suitable, it’s design was simple).

However, given the setbacks from the unsure beginning, I believe I have created a fully functioning Gant chart with enough information to give a client confidence in my work-plan and have completed the given task satisfactorily.