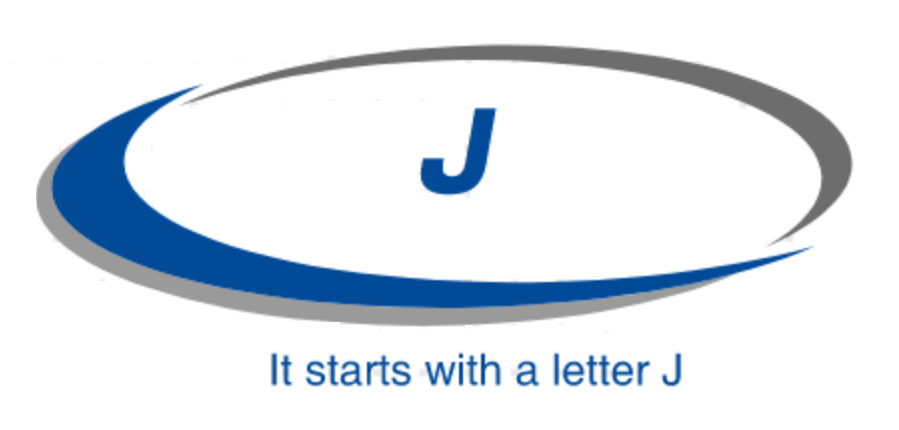
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RMIT University

COSC2196

Introduction to Information Technology

Assessment 3

****Team J

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# Team

## Github

### Repository

https://github.com/Ja4m3s02/Assignment-3.git

### Webpage

## Scope

The scope of this document is to provide the reader an overview of where the project is completed to. This will help the reader understand what the group has completed so far, and what else needs to be done. By reading this document, the reader should be able to have a fair understanding of the applications capabilities and its potential developments goals.

## Team Profile

### Student ID

1. Don Vu - s3398720
2. James Philip Eland - s3909450
3. Jonathan Hazell - s3908219
4. James Parker - s3905759
5. Stefan Siotos - s3894025
6. Jordan Uhe - s3907253

## Group Processes

The group worked relatively well in Assignment 2, our meeting schedule was designed in a way that would allow each member to actively participate in the course lecture and tutorials and also have time to attend the meeting. As a result, we kept the same meeting schedule.

The group meets twice a week (mainly Mondays and Saturdays) our main form of communication is Team’s video call which occurs twice a week. During the week if we need any additional support or questions answered, we can contact each other via email or Team’s messaging.

The process for workload in the group is kept the same. The group goes through the assignment together on the first meeting, clarifying issues and uncertainties. The group then decides which parts they would like to do or which parts suits a member best, the part or parts is then allocated to that member and is expected to have it done by the agreed date.

During the teaching period, members can ask each other for help and if others are willing, they can assist. If not, the group will come together and work through that part together to accomplish that section.

## Teams Meetings

### Meeting 1 –

Date: 27/04/2021

Time: 19:00

Link: <https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/e8923091-6b10-436a-8588-b7d214bce423>

Apologies: NA

Agenda:

* Nominate Team leader for the Group
* Group Expectations
* Assignment 3 topics
* Topic allocations

Notes:

Topic allocations are stated in the google doc link

[Project 3 - Google Docs](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1i4R6rJug1vTZmUohwoG_K7KaDdChpUxpftKWJgKjNQA/edit)

### Meeting 2 –

Date: 03/05/2021

Time: 19:00

Link: <https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/ad66103a-76b1-4f0b-855a-229cd90ad6d5>

Apologies: Jonathan Hazel

Agenda:

* Group Progress Report
* Any issues to raise? NA
* Complete pieces by 15th
* After that work on presentation
* Create mock-up UI

Notes:

* Fill in Timeline google doc – email sent by James Parker

### Meeting 3 –

Date: 08/05/2021

Time: 10:00

Link: <https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/2d4e1ee1-309e-4ef9-8ecf-4859ee461534>

Apologies: NA

Agenda:

* Team catch up
* Progress report
* Next meeting moved to Thursday 13/05/2021

Notes:

* Fill in Timeline google doc – email sent by James Parker

### Meeting 4 –

Date: 13/05/2021

Time: 19:00

Link: <https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/2e933d69-455b-4f53-95b3-25421f22027a>

Apologies: Stefan Siotos, James Parker

Agenda:

* Finalise all your parts
* Get ready to talk about presentation and Github website.
* Reminder to do your reflection parts

Notes:

* Fill in Timeline google doc – email sent by James Parker

## Career Plans

# Project Description

## The passions, interests and skills of your group

Our group comes from a very diverse skillset and mindset in relation to IT. Some already has industry certification and already have a job in the IT industry; whereas some are in an unrelated field and wish to gain entry into the industry.

Regardless of where one stands in the industry it is always the advanced technology, the breakthrough and revolutionary technology that intrigues the team and makes them want to learn more about it.

## IT industry trends

The trend in the IT industry now is about convenience and AI; the smarter the technology is, the less smart the user needs to be to use the technology to complete their desired task. As a result, the technology needs to become more sophisticated and complex to make up for the shortfall.

The idea of advancing technology is so that it can do more, cost less and take up less space and time. To do more, the technology needs to be smarter or at least capable of learning so it can eventually do more for the common man to do less. Cost less is a major concern for the common man as if there is an advanced technology but no one can afford it except for the extremely rich; then its not really being used by the general public. Lastly taking up less space and time, advancing means to be portable as well. For example, now a full sized i7 laptop can be in a size of a hand held gaming console.

## What would assist you in your career plan

Working through this project will allow members of the team to take part in a project plan, do project work and gain project experience.

This will particularly help the members with management roles as their career goal as it will develop their management skills in regards to time, funds and project milestones.

# Overview

## Topic:

The project Eavesdropper was intended to help people get information of certain websites and be able to be one of the first people in the world to know about the changes to the website. The website could be anything the user would like it to be and be useful to everyone in their personal way. By having this chrome extension, this would significantly help people to get the information they would like to get and get notified when something in the website has been changed.

The outcome is to have people get what information from their chosen websites as soon as the website has been changed. This will have people get informed about changes a lot quicker rather than people scramming and refreshing pages all the time. This will allow people to discuss about certain things sooner and be able to create hype for the product or event that is going to happen. This chrome extension will also grow from people using it and talking about it.

## Motivation:

The motivation of Eavesdropper is because of the fact that people would be interested in limited edition items, a new TV series or whatever the consumer is interested in. People who might have forgotten when a certain item would come out, those people will get reminded and be able to purchase what they would like or even watch the latest episode without getting spoiled of anything. Eavesdropper will be able to inform a future employer about how useful the information that the chrome extension is and how it is able to inform the user about the website getting an update to the website.

## Landscape:

There are many other web alert extensions that are out there and really useful in their own way. All of these web alerts do the same thing as our chrome extension but have their own features to it. For example, visualping, buzzbundle and talkwalker alert. The difference with our chrome extension is that it is not just limited to certain areas of the internet. Our extension covers the majority of different areas of the internet. It does not just notify you on your desktop when you are using the internet but the extension is also able to inform the user through email and text. The extension would send you a link to the website and inform you what has changed. It can even highlight the area where the change has occurred.

# Detailed Description

## Aims:

The specific aim for the project is to.” Unite people with updated information”. This aim will allow people to have the most updated information on their chosen websites and have people be able to be informed wherever they may be. The aim of uniting people with the most updated information will get people to know what is happening around the world or what is happening in a certain hobby or whatever the case maybe, in which people can get more knowledge of it a lot easier.

The first goal is “Find the trends”. By finding the trends of something. For example, shoes. If we are able to find what is trending and what people are talking about in the shoe industry. Then we are able to access what is happening and be able to created the technology that will help benefit for the shoe industry and find the best solution possible for all the people who want to either buy or read information about a certain shoe. This goal is expected to be one of the main priorities of creating this chrome extension. This will give us information on how we are able to create the extension and be able to use the known information and use it for different industries and people are interested in.

The second goal is “Create the extension”. This goal will lead us into creating the extension. It will allow us to actually start on creating the chrome extension and be able to experiment with different areas of the chrome extension. For example, creating a user-friendly UI and how the code works for the chrome extension.

The third goal is “Link the user and extension”. This just simply means to be able to create a link between the user and the website. In which it could be through email, text message or a web-alert. This will then create a link from the user and the desired website that they have chosen to get this notification and inform them where the change has happened. By creating this link between the user and the chrome extension, it will then get the user to use the extension for other websites and be able to get even more information that they would like to get.

## What are the most important parts of the Project?

The most important part of the project is to be able to be able to create a link between the user and their chosen websites. This is really important because of the fact that the user needs to get notified that a change in a website has in fact occurred. With no form of being able to link the user and the website then the user will not be able to know when something has changed. This will then make the chrome extension obsolete and pointless.

## Which parts should have priority over the others?

Creating the extension is the top priority of the project is creating the chrome extension. The team should dedicate most of their time to the creation of the extension itself. This is because that without creating a good quality chrome extension then people will not use it and will use other chrome extensions. By having the chrome extension completed and ready-to-use, consumers will then come to our project and use it because of the fact that it is completed and has been the team’s main priority

# Plans & Progress

## How the project began

The project began as a university assignment where 6 individuals were tasked with creating or developing an IT project. The group decided on the plan to develop a Chrome Application In which it allows users to track websites of any changes and if there are changes, alerts the users via email, text message or SMS.

The idea seems achievable at that time and was one of the major underlining factors in selecting this for the assignment theme. As we progressed through there was many constraints from knowledge, skills, teamwork, time and to financial commitments. As we submitted our assignment 2 for this unit, the idea was more achievable once we had done some research. As a result, the continuation of the developing application to become an active live application in which users can subscribe or purchase.

## What your project will do?

The project aims to target a certain niche in the market. Groups such as bargain hunters and collectors where they need to continuously search for deals or items that are in high demand. This will help these collectors or hunters to be notified when these items are available or have changed status.

We aim to develop this project into a working solution to meet market demands from a user’s perspective. There are many options out there, but they are predominately checking if the website is live or not by performing routine pings to the website address.

## How will you do it?

The project is in its development stage right now. The group aims to have at least the development, staffing, backbone, features, UI (rough ins) available for investor considerations. Once all components are carefully considered and identified all the “what’s” and “how’s” we will need to go out and seek potential investors to assist us in funding the project. The project requires funding as there is certain skill sets, we do not possess in the group. We require funding to build the physical backbone of the application as well. Things such as servers, licencing, computer to host etc…

## How has it progressed –

### Development

Overall, the development of the project has progressed smoothly. As all projects there were bumps and dead ends at the start but the overall result has been achieving results. Development is always the hardest part in creating a project; there are so many ideas and different avenues in which the project can develop. Luckly, the decision in the group was unified in the very early stages and the end goal was clearly defined.

Currently the group has been able to design the basic concept of the backbone infrastructure. Using Linux as the core, the CTO with his years of experience and knowledge will be the lead for this development and implementation.

The UI will be managed by our development manager Stefan who will decide on the development team and how the team should be housed. Whether the project will be completed with UI developers in house or be up for tendering by external contractors.

### Staffing

Staffing levels are currently very limited, as it consists of the members currently involved in the initial project.

* Don VU as the CEO
* James Parker as the CMO
* Johnathan Hazel as the CTO
* James Eland & Jordan Uhe as the Developer

As there are other parts to the project that needs attention the group will require skills and experience that their current members do not have.

The idea is that the group will develop and plan as much as practical and the remainder of the work will either be outsourced to tender or addition resources will be hired to complete the tasks.

### Backbone

The backbone of the project is designed to operate on Linux platform with a SQL database. Hardware requirement are minimal, so the requirement for powerful hardware is not required. The application can operate and be hosted on a medium specification computer built as a server. More detailed information regarding this setup can be found in the Tools section.

### Features

Features of the application will be allowing users to take a snapshot of the webpage they wish to monitor. The application will notify the user when the website has an update, whether it be price, quantity or availability.

The user can subscribe to more premium services to monitor more webpages and specifics of the webpage. This premium subscription can be broken up into Tier one, Tier two, Tier three and Tier four, and the duration of the subscription can be from One month, Three month, Six months, One year.

The monetary tag has yet to be determine and will be evaluated on the amount of features the application can present to the user. Once we are able to determine this, most likely in the UAT phase; we will then determine the pricing for each Tier/Month.

### UI

The UI is the most important part of the developing stage, it needs to be simple, user friendly and efficient for the user.

The UI is going to be straight forward and effective as to what each feature does. It needs to provide easy access to self helps or the support team for assistance.

The specifics of the UI are still being developed and the group hopes to have it done before the presentation to potential stakeholders. This way the stakeholders can have a visual knowledge of what to expect in from this project.

### Dead ends

The restrictions we currently face is of two things, the ability to access the service/hardware and financial support. We require the financial support from our investors to further progress with the project. Up to this point, our ideas and plans have been all paper based.

## Outstanding items/Future Plans

Future of the project are once we have delivered our sales pitch to potential investors and receive some funding; The plan for the future of the projects is as below:

1. Hire the required staff with required skills OR outsource the work to a contractor.
2. Build the backbone and infrastructure of the application/s
3. Develop the UI and application
4. Test the application
5. Evaluate and change from the results
6. Update and change application
7. BETA test with live users
8. Final evaluation
9. Live Rollout

We will initialise by building the backbone of the application as per our plan. The backbone will be a steam line setup with linux based systems to host the application. Once we have set up the servers to host the application, we will need to get the application developed. Under the UAT testing phase, evaluation phase and re-development phase and rollout.

# Roles

Although our group has contributed in all aspects some people have stepped up in certain roles more than others so we have designated rolls for each individual. The roles we have chosen we believe are essential in founding a good tech startup these roles are Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Chief Marketing Officer (CMO), Developer, Operations Manager, UI Designer and Chief Technical Officer(CTO).

## Chief Executive Officer

Chief Executive Officer this is a role that everyone in our group could fit under as we were all part of the major decisions of our team. We have given this role to Don as he has been assigned chair of our team and has had the most responsibility in decision making due to him being the chair. Don also has experience in the IT sector so he is a good fit to chair and lead our team in the CEO position. The CEO’s main roles will be setting up our direction and strategy, implementing our goals and plans.

## Chief Marketing Officer

James Parker has been assigned the role of CMO, we have elected James into this position due to his marketing background. Before working at team J James was working at a Fitness company and he specialized in marketing. The key roles of a CMO are User acquisition, focusing on brand identity, marketing and research and analytics.

## Chief Technical Officer

Jonathan Hazel has been assigned the role of chief technical officer this is a role that we have all contributed to as we have all worked on the early stages of developing the product and deciding which tools and programs we will develop the program on. We have chosen to assign Jonathon hazel to this role this is due to his experience in the IT field with over 25 years of experience as a linux/unix sys admin working at large companies like IBM, Texas instruments and AT&T he is well suited for the role of chief technical officer. The main roles of a CTO are developing product infrastructure, focusing on how the backend team can increase revenue and making sure we hit technical deadlines.

## Operations Manager

This is a role that has been shared equally throughout the group, we have all contributed as there hasn’t been one person who stood out to take this roll. The key roles of the operations manager to create the structure and processes of the team, reviewing logistics and HR and making sure that everything flows smoothly.

## Developer

James eland and Jordan Uhe have been assigned the rolls of developer this is due to their focus on the website part of the project. The key roles for James and Jordan will be to Code and design the software, maintaining and implementing new ideas as well as coming up with ideas and improvements and maintaining the website.

## UI Designer

This is another role that has been worked on by all members of the group however we have assigned Stefan as head of this role this is due to everyone having different creative styles and design philosophies so we believed that it was better if we all contributed but one person who is Stefan will make the final design choices as to not cause arguments and push us further away from achieving our goals. The key roles of the UI Designer are to present drafts and sketches to the other team members, create the flow of the program, create design ideas and create a user interface that aligns with the user requirements of the program.

# Scopes & Limits

# Tools

As out lined in our earlier assignment Eavesdropper is a web-based chrome application that allows users to track websites for releases of their most desired items. The program will regularly check the HTML code of a specific website that the user has chosen. You can have Eavesdropper check for pre-set conditions of the code so that you only get notifications of items that interest you. Eavesdropper is designed for customers that are in the market for specific items and are only interested in availability and price changes of these items. Our program enables users to set parameters, so they are not flooded with irrelevant notifications.

Like a lot of small start-up businesses, we have a very tight budget so money for software, and hardware is limited. In addition, we want to develop our application on a small desktop or laptop initially but will be easy to scale as business expands. Everything we need for the development of our services and applications can be done using opensource software. Open-source software is software that is free to use and change as long as the changes and code are issued back to the original maintainer or maintainers **(1 GNU Free Software Foundation)** Free or opensource software is ideal for our purpose since it requires no initial financial output. We will be using what is called a LAMP stack, and open-source application and coding stack. LAMP stands for Linux, Apache webserver, MySQL database and PHP or Python for coding, and we will look at each part separately.

Most the world’s web servers run on Linux developed by Linus Torvalds **(2 Linus Torvalds)** as do the worlds data centres. There are countless Linux Distros or Distributions, each with there own offerings, but for our purpose we will use CentOS 8 **(3)** which is a fork of RHEL(Red Hat Enterprise Linux) **(4 Red Hat).** Red Hat is the one of the oldest and most successful Linux distributions but is now a commercial operation Like Microsoft. CentOS is a direct fork of RHEL and includes nearly all its features free of charge. We will be using CentOS 8 which is a very stable, scalable platform that can easily be migrated to the cloud. CentOS 8 is running the 4.18 kernel which is far from the newest Linux kernel, but CentOS, like RHEL, is all about stability for production systems. **(5 Kernel Archives).** The Kernel is the heart of system, so stability is key. Major changes include a changeup to the YUM **(6 YUM)** package manager, which is now based on the DNF. While it maintains the same command-line interface and stable API for sysadmin and DevOps integration these changes should make YUM faster so all system packages can be upgraded to the latest and most stable version. For developers, besides Git 2.18, CentOS offers these version control systems: Mercurial 4.8 and Subversion 1.10. Python (7Python.org) 3.6 is now CentOS’s default Python implementation, even though 3.8.10 is the latest release. There are several other default languages included in the build, Node.js 10.1, PHP 7.2, Ruby 2.5, Perl 5.26, and SWIG 3.0. The CentOS GCC compiler is based on version 8.2. It includes support for more recent C++ language standard versions, better optimizations, new code hardening techniques, improved warnings, and new hardware support. So, we have a very stable operating system with built in programming languages and compilers.

Since we are a web-based application, we need a webserver CentOS 8 comes with 2 web servers, Apache HTTP Server 2.4 is the latest stable release (8 Apache.org) and is licensed under Apache License 2.0. Apache is probably the longest running webserver and is an excellent feature packed webserver. The other option is and NGINX with the most stable release 1.18.0 and release under BSD licence 2. NGINX **(9 NGINX)** is a far newer web server around since 2004 and is a high performance easy to configure, more light weight and flexible web server that can also be used as a load balancer, mail proxy service and a HTTP caching service. Due to our limited budget on the physical hardware, load balancing and caching are good inbuilt options that reduce overhead. Of the two servers NGINX will be our choice.

As a we based application, that tracks the changes in price and quantity of rare items for fee paying customers we need a data base to keep track of information, such as customer names, payment history items of interest. By keeping relevant information on our customers our app can be more finely tuned and tailored to the interests of a variety of users. Individual users require different information, and it is important to keep track of this information. As our system improves and evolves, we will be able to offer more options for the customer to refine their parameters for a better experience. One of the features of our app is to send SMS messages or an email to notify the customer of any changes. To store this information, we need a database. CentOS 8 comes with several data bases but for our needs we will use MySQL version 8 **(10) MySQL** is an open-source relational database management system it can be tailored to deploy cloud-native applications it is very scalability, secure, reliable. In its simplest form it is easy to set up and configure and has a native web interface for administration and enable a web interface to display user information. There is one caveat to MySQL is that it now owned by Oracle (11), but it is free to a large extent. MySQL can be used freely within a web site MySQL license can be used free of charge for all projects that themselves run under the GPL or comparable free license. Since our application is built and uses open-source product, we can use it under the GPL licence (12 GPL).

In order to keep our clients informed of changes in their items of interest we need to send an email or SMS message. For this we will use another opensource application called iReadMail **(13).** iRedMail is a single package email server that scales from a single user to a company. It uses Postfix SMTP mail server version 3.5.10 released under IBM opensource license 2.0. **(14).** Postfix currently compromises 33%of the worlds Internet mail servers. iRedMail uses secure connections, POP3, IMAP over TLS (transport layer security) for mail services, and web mail access webmail with HTTPS. Emails are encrypted in transit using TLS, and passwords are encrypted and stored in SSHA512 or BCRYPT (Berkley Standard Distribution). The package includes a data base package of your choice, Anti-Spam, Anti-Virus protection, and a Web Admin Panel for easy Administration. The Postfix SMTP (simple message transfer protocol or MTA message transfer agent) can be configured to not only send email notifications to users but also SMS messages to their cell phone or number of their choice. As stated iRedMail is free but does provide a paid for professional support service.

The last item is what are we going to run our application on. By choosing the components we have in that they are not resource intensive, we can get away with running our project on a late model desktop or laptop for portability. We would need something like a 11th Generation I5 processor or AMD Ryzen 9 4900HS with a minimum of 16 GB of DDR4 RAM with expansion to 32GB of RAM. A minimum of a 500GB hard drive, preferably 1TB SSD would be preferable, cost being a factor. Graphics should be reasonable, but since this is not a graphics heavy application, we are more interested in memory, storage and processor. There are numerous laptops and desktops that fit our requirements for around $2000.

So, we have put together a very comprehensive software and operating system tool kit. It is reliable, flexible, well documented, has hundreds of thousands of developers worldwide and scalable. All the components we have selected are used by major companies the world over. It is not resource intensive, so our hardware output is minimal, and all components are free. This way we can develop an app that delivers what we intend it to do.

# Testing

# Timeframe

# Risks

There are many risks with beginning a start-up tech company, some things that are specific to us would be capturing a market, beating our competitors as well as making sure we aren’t infringing copyright or a patent, passing the chrome app approval process. The reason capturing the market poses a large risk is there are already products similar to ours and without customers however we are planning to overcome this risk and turn it into an opportunity by targeting a more specific market and offer services more tailored to the customers that we want. The chrome app approval process shouldn’t pose to much of a risk as I believe our app will fall within the guidelines but the approval process may still take up to a week so that could pose a risk to things like our launch date as it may be delayed depending on how long it takes the app to be approved.

# Group Processes and Communication

The group will continue to do what they have done in Assignment 2. The form of communication is via video call using the application Teams. The meetings will be taking place with a minimum of two calls per week. As the individuals live in different areas in Australia, the only logical option is to meet using technology.

The contingency plan for non-responding members of the group is to use a three-strike rule. First strike is not attending the scheduled meetings, a follow up email is sent to the user CC’ing the team advising of what the meeting was about and the agenda. Also checking up on the member to see if there are any issues and if the group can help in any way. If no response, another email is sent a week later. Three days after that if there is still no response, the group will meet with an emergency meeting to divide the work that member was in charge of. The leader will then notify the relevant people from the university.

# Skills & Jobs

The four positions we would hire would be two JavaScript Full Stack developer, a Chief Financial Officer and a UI Designer.

## Java Script Full Stack Developer

We will be hiring two JavaScript Full Stack developers this is to speed up the process of creating the web app and due to our team currently not having that much developing experience in JavaScript or other programming languages.

The ideal candidate must have experience in creating other chrome apps, and experience with back-end technologies like

* Java-JEE, Spring boot, Hibernate, JPA.
* Grails 2.4.4
* Groovy.
* SOAP and strong API integration.

And front-end technologies

* Angular JS
* Bootstrap 3

The ideal candidate must also be able to work within a team and with stakeholders.

## Chief Financial Officer

We will be hiring a Chief Financial Officer as this is a role we have not currently accounted for.

The key responsibilities are Raising capital, manage cashflow, providing financial leadership and data analysis.

The ideal candidate will be

* CPA Qualified
* Have Strong analytical skills for problem solving
* Experience building strong financial oriented teams.

## User Interface designer

We will be hiring a UI designer due to our current team not having the required experience to develop the product to a place we are happy with.

The key responsibilities are design and prototype user experiences and user interfaces, help incorporate relevant data from customer feedback to help inform design decisions, created digital style guides.

The ideal candidate will have

* Strong attention to detail
* Experience with design tools such as Figma, Sketch and photoshop
* Hands on experience with design processes.
* A deep understanding of user-entered design and strong analytical abilities.

# Group Reflection

## Don Vu Reflection

The group atmosphere has improved since assignment two. Things are running more smoothly as everyone is aware of their expectations and how the group operates.

I think the group can improve to be more effective by meeting more often. This will allow the group to bond more effectively and work in more unison manner.

The thing that was very surprising for me was then the results came out for Assignment 2, the group read the feedback and was very accepting of the results. There was no blame or questions asking about the assignment but rather a lot of self-reflection. Self -reflection areas in which could of done better and how to future proof the assignment to gain more points.

## James Philip Eland Reflection

## Jonathan Hazell Reflection

## James Parker Reflection

## Stefan Siotos Reflection

## Jordan Uhe Reflection

## Group Reflection

# Appendix

# References

1 [https://www.gnu.org/home.en.html](about:blank)

2 [https://github.com/torvalds](about:blank)

3 [https://www.centos.org/](about:blank)

4 [https://www.redhat.com/](about:blank)

5 [https://www.kernel.org/](about:blank)

6 [https://www.redhat.com/sysadmin](about:blank)

7[https://www.python.org/](about:blank)

8 [https://httpd.apache.org/](about:blank)

9 [https://www.nginx.com/](about:blank)

10 [https://www.mysql.com/](about:blank)

11 [https://www.oracle.com/](about:blank)

12 [https://www.gnu.org/licenses/gpl-3.0.en.html](about:blank)

13 [https://www.iredmail.org/](about:blank)

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