Teamwork Activity – Identify Individual Learning Objectives and Skills

Activity Summary

Each team member creates two lists:
- one for motivations and learning objectives, and
- another for current strengths and skills.

Discussion Summary

Our discussion around our lists concluded that we should put our focus in improving project skills. One thing that we discussed was how our lists were mostly focused around our technical skills that we gained throughout our degree. We all have a different subset of abilities despite working in the same field, which means that we are able to fill in gaps for each other in many areas, such as Trent's proficiencies in backend development, and Ethan's specialization in AI.

Despite being strong technically, that meant that our project management/soft skills had room for improvement. Since we have all had less experience in this regard, we decided to center our focus into these aspects. Our five focus areas as a team are centered around the team. Completing homework in our own times generally results in unorganized methods that don't reinforce good practices, especially with less accountability. So we decided that we wanted to develop communication skills for working as a team, keeping each other accountable, and working on-time consistently. Some of us felt more confident about these areas, but it was clear that we could all do more to work together more effectively.

Our learning objectives mainly center around developing our roles further while simultaneously working in a group setting. These learning objectives helped decide where to place our roles in the end (even though it was mostly settled beforehand). The place we ended after this activity complemented each other's strengths and weaknesses evenly and we are happy how the discussion went.

A formatted version of our lists are included below:

Project Manager: Oliver

Motivations and Learning Objectives

Motivations:

- Lead a project that meets the requirements of the project in an organized fashion.

- Create a functional tool that benefits real world education.
- Makes the lives of professors and students easier.

Learning Objectives:

- Learning workplace management skills and tools that may be relevant in my future, regardless of whether I'm in a management position.
- Practice development processes like Agile.

Strengths and Skills

Strengths:

- Organized, and good at scheduling and coordinating tasks.
- Strong communication skills, and am able to coordinate and lead a team.

Skills:

- Communication skills.
- Taking the initiative and leading.
- Technical skills in coding to assist with development when needed.
- Organizational skills for structuring and facilitating development of the project.

Backend Developer: Trent

Motivations and Learning Objectives

Motivations:

- Make a final product backend for the site that allows assignments to be delineated and AI assisted.
- Deliver code that is quality and usable and performs well.
- Create a smooth experience for professors to make class assignments.

Learning Objectives:

- Learn to optimize backend architecture for better performance.
- Deepen knowledge of practices in backend development.

Strengths and Skills

Strengths:

- Low level programming, and algorithms.
- Good problem solving skills.
- Thorough tester for quality assurance.

Skills:

- Python
- C/C++
- JavaScript
- Various backend development methods like RestfulAPIs.

AI Developer: Ethan

Motivations and Learning Objectives

Motivations:

- Apply AI experience on the project to cover one of the primary requirements.
- Work on a real-world application of AI.
- Contribute to education.

Learning Objectives:

- Develop a stronger work ethic and time management skills.
- Direct experience with implementing AI models.

Strengths and Skills

Strengths:

- A background with statistics, math, AI and machine learning models.
- Working together with other students on projects.

Skills:

- Writing AI algorithms in Python.
- AI and Machine Learning.

- Statistics and data modeling.

Frontend Developer: Collin

Motivations and Learning Objectives

Motivations:

- Create a user interface that is easy for professors and students to use.
- Develop a web framework that is robust and functional.

Learning Objectives:

- Learn about how to improve web-design skills and user accessibility.
- Work together with a team to develop a multi-developer project.
- Gain experience with front-end frameworks like React.

Strengths and Skills

Strengths:

- Problem solving.
- Graphic design and organization.
- Paying attention to details.

Skills:

- HTML, CSS, and JavaScript
- React.js.
- Illustrator.
- UI/UX principles from web-development projects.

Documenter: Sai

Motivations and Learning Objectives

Motivations:

- Write comprehensive documentation that aids the development team as well as the users if needed.
- Ensure that the project's requirements are fully and accurately documented.

Learning Objectives:

- Improve skills in technical writing.
- Writing clear and organized work.
- Learn the best practices for writing technical documentation.

Strengths and Skills

Strengths:

- Attention to detail and ability to organize information.
- Communication skills.

Skills:

- Software development.
- Professional writing tools such as LaTeX.
- Technical writing and formatting documents.
- Python, html, css, JavaScript.