# Design and Development Reflection

S8 Graduation
Personal Development
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# Introduction

This is my second and last big reflection moment for this semester. Initially, I wanted to do one reflection per project phase, but because the design phase is so small, I decided to combine it with the development phase at the end of the semester.

I preferred the new reflection method I applied last time, so I will do the same with this reflection moment. Therefore, I will again include key activities and milestones, achievements, challenges and learning, feedback and iterations, skills and tools, emotional and personal reflection. Improvements for the rest of the semester will be changed to what could have gone better.

# Key activities and milestones

## Activities

I continued the project in a steady phase. The concept phase was finished with some validated wireframes. I conducted a visual audit on the current corporate branding of RN365 and applied the similar styling to the wireframes to make a prototype.

Later, I did some preparations for the development phase. This included research for the front-end framework and the server architecture for example. It was decided that the project would be built directly into the repository of RN365. Over the course of the last few weeks, I realised the MVP that is now a functioning product.

I had some secondary activities during these weeks that weren't related to my project. I went to Malaga to attend the WeyWeyWeb conference. The things I learned here were presented to the team in one of the devtalks we do once in a while.

In addition, I helped with a little side client project. Team Jumbo Visma got a rebrand, and the new styling and features were added to their website. I helped TDE with this project. This time was also valuable for my own project as TJV is set up exactly as RN365. Therefore, I got a good introduction in the project setup, DDEV, and things like Twig HTML.

## Milestones

This project phase had a couple of interesting milestones that were key to the course of my internship.

- **WeyWeyWeb Malaga**
  It happened to be that I was in Malaga exactly at the same time the WeyWeyWeb conference was held. I attended this conference last year and it was quite interesting for me as a developer and designer. Because I was in Malaga anyway, I asked TDE if I could attend the conference again on their behalf, and bring the things I learned back home to present during one of the devtalks.
- **Client side project**
  I was asked to help with a client project for Team Jumbo Visma. This was only for one or two days. I was keen to do something extra for TDE during my internship and this project also formed a good introduction into topics that are relevant to my internship project. So, I hit two birds with one stone.

- **Recording the Vegas GP live data**
  I had already done several attempts to get the API working that receives data from the F1 data source. Fortunately after a couple of racing weekends, I got the script working. I recorded the data from the Vegas GP and used it as test and development data for the liveblog.
- **Developing the backend**
  I assumed developing the backend would be a difficult task. However, I learned how to use ChatGPT as an assistant to help with coding. ChatGPT came in handy as backend development isn't exactly right up my alley. I managed to detect multiple events like overtakes and crashes. The script is messy but it does the job as an MVP.
- **Shift in the scope of the project to the CMS of RN365**
  In a meeting with RN365 it was discussed that they needed control over the liveblog at any time. Therefore, the detected liveblog items would first need to go through the RN365 CMS. This opened up a whole new chapter to the project, as this meant that some new concepting and design work was necessary to come with a well working CMS page for the liveblog.
- **Developing the front-end**
  When I conducted some meetings and asked feedback on a simple prototype for the CMS, I was ready to develop the new liveblog. As explained, this was done in the actual RN365 project itself.

# Achievements

The biggest achievement for me is developing the actual liveblog. I expected it to be much more of a challenge, but in the end it wasn't so bad. Also because helping with the side client project went smoothly, I realised that I don't have to call myself a beginner in development anymore.

A few weeks back, TDE indicated that they would be interested in discussing a future for me at the company. This indicates that TDE believes that I'm ready to work as a designer and developer.

# Challenges and learning

There's one thing that didn't feel particularly challenging, but more uncertain, was that I haven't used scrum during the development of the liveblog. Because I was new to the technologies, and wasn't good at estimating how much effort would go into developing the liveblog, I decided not to use scrum but to apply the Ad Hoc methodology. This method relies on making decisions on the go. This is an official methodology. However, it doesn't differ much from just running a project blind and hoping for the best. So I am curious how the choice of my methodology will be assessed.

Next I found that I got better at working from home. It is still a challenge to be as productive at home as at the office, but I know what tasks I can do better at home and what not. Motivation for documenting my portfolio can only be found at the office in Eindhoven for example. I also think that I'm more easily distracted because I'm working from my bedroom. I have heard that your mind will subconsciously relate certain spaces with certain activities. My bedroom is mostly for relaxing and chilling. Therefore, it's more difficult to concentrate and be productive. I want to solve this issue by building an office in an empty room in my house so I have a dedicated room for concentration and productivity.

## Feedback and interactions

I discuss my progress with John and Erik. Both give good suggestions for the project. In the last few weeks I found that I have more contact with my stakeholder RN365. Not really with Ruud itself, but just with employees of the editorial. Ruud doesn't always reply to emails, this resulted in me just paying RN365 a visit to get some feedback for example. I found that Jan is much easier to approach for feedback and questions. This also resulted in me having more contact with the stakeholder.

## Skills and tools used

- As explained above, I believe that my development skills are on a professional level now that I can say that I can easily work along with client projects, and working on my own project in the repository of RN365 is also something I didn't expect to do during this internship.
- As explained in the previous reflection, I can work along with colleagues working on Macbooks with a Windows laptop. First I needed some help with setting up my development environment, but I recently got a new laptop and got everything working by myself. I now know how to set up WSL, install SSH keys and add them to GitLab and clone and install projects to develop on my laptop. I am proud that I managed to do this. If I would want to stay at TDE after my internship, this proves that I can easily work on a Windows laptop and don't need a Macbook.

# Emotional and personal reflection

Three things I reflected on in my last reflection were my post travel blues, difficulties with sleep and the side project for the study abroad team that I worried about.

I can say that my post travel blues are over. The things I am doing during everyday life feel like an achievement again. I first noticed this when working on the client side project. I was first afraid that I was just wasting valuable time for my own internship project, but this was the case as it also helped me with preparing the development of my own project. I also believe that these post-travel blues got me stressed and anxious and therefore, I didn't sleep well. Now this stress and anxiety are gone, I can sleep much better.

The little side project for the study abroad team is still work in progress. I received some feedback that I still have to process, but I decided that this project is just too much so I gave my internship priority and might continue this side project later.

# What could have gone better this semester?

I concluded that there was much to improve on focus and productivity. Now that I know what tasks I can do better at home and what not, it's easier to be productive at home. There were still some days where I got less done, but at least I got something done. I also found that I got better at managing my time when working from home, when I just didn't feel like being productive during the day, I would just do something else for a while and catch up on my work in the evening.

# Summary

In my last reflection moment, I used a new approach. In this reflection I used the same topics again because I prefer this way of reflecting. In the last few weeks I elaborated my project into a working MVP. I call this an achievement. Next to the success of my own project, I have also been busy with some side activities. I attended the WayWayWeb conference in Malaga, and reported the things I learned back to the team. I also worked on a client project for TDE. This was also helpful for my own project as this project was set up in a similar way as RN365.

The more personal part of my reflection is a major improvement over the last reflection. In my last reflection I reflected on how I struggled to adapt to working from home. I'm still most productive at the office, but I learned what activities I can better avoid doing at home, like documenting for my portfolio, to keep my productivity at home up. I can also say that I'm completely over my post travel blues and I believe that this also fixed my struggles with achieving good sleep.

# Learning Outcome Clarification

- Learning Outcome 5: Personal Leadership

Learning outcome 5 applies for this deliverable as I showed that I can reflect on my own actions.