Reflection - Documentation

Choice of tools

All documentation related to the development process, such as product and sprint logs, were required to be readily accessible and modifiable for all group members. This motivated the choice of the cloud based tool *Google Drive* to store and iteratively develop the contents of the documents. Conversions of documents from Google Drive and additional formatting were done using Microsoft Office Word 2007 and 2010 and Open Office Writer.

To create figures to support the documentation LibreOffice Draw and the UML-plugin ObjectAid UML Explorer for Eclipse were used. Additionally, sketches made by hand on whiteboards during meetings were taken photos of with a camera. The pictures snapped were uploaded to image sharing sites by the group members.

Process

Initially more extensive documents such as the product and sprint backlogs were created collaboratively by all group members during group meetings. These documents were written as spreadsheets on Google Drive to motivate working on the documents together, simultaneously. Additions and corrections were done iteratively and primarily initiated by a group member proposing the revision.

Documentation not concerned with the requirement of easy accessibility for all group members, such as the *developer guide* and the *user manual*, were given as tasks during sprint plannings. Since they were individual assignments, they were developed with tools of the individual's choice. The outlines of the documents were, however, laid out vaguely as a collaborative effort during meetings. When the outlines of the document were finished, these documents were handed out to group members as tasks. When the documents were completed, they were proof-read, refined and developed as necessary by other group members.

There were several methods involved in creating documentations: by sketching images, by sketching on a whiteboard, by a collection of notes (in the case of, for example, Architecture Specification, which relied heavily on meeting sketches), by taking pictures, and by using plugins to draw or generate documentation templates.

The examples of the documentation followed, if applicable, the documentation of WhatsUp, found here: https://github.com/kirayatail/WhatsUp.

The handins required that the documentations were in a pdf-format, which was very easy to do through Google Drive's *export as* feature. The product and sprint logs were, however, shown as large spreadsheets instead of the structure of the templates.

To write the release notes, in particular, the GitHub Issue Tracker was used extensively, since it contains issues, limitations and fixes as needed in the notes.

Documentation was usually an iterative process, which meant that using revision control (e.g. version number suffix) proved useful. This ensured that development on documentation was always done with the latest version available on Google Drive.

Conclusion

All team members (Aki, Fredrik, Marcus) were, more or less, involved in the process of creating each document in this project. Google Drive enabled the team to work very efficiently as a group, and If the project were to be restarted, more of the documentation (if not all) should have been available and up-to-date at all times on this cloud service, since it made developing documentation as a team much easier.