Personal report.

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Over the period of working on this project, I have acquired the experience that I could have obtained in no other way. These 19 weeks have given me such a deep insight over the real project lifecycle and development process. The new knowledge and skills I have received include not only the skills applied purely to programming , but also team management and teamwork in general, time scheduling, design, organization, leadership and has even given an insight into the team psychology.

Especially this project was useful as a mean of getting an insight of a real working environment of a team project. I have never been involved in a project of such large scope before.

It included all the parts of real development – feasibility studies and analysis, design, development, evaluation and constant team management. What was special about this project is that once it’s coming to an end it is so easy (and so frustrating) to see all the fault and misassumptions done before. As the project evolved, the knowledge and skills also developed. A very important part of it was the fact working in a team – it is the biggest source of information and knowledge due to sharing of information and discussing new ideas.

Personally I have acquired the most knowledge about the technical part of the project: i.e. JavaScript frameworks, PHP, code conventions and good practice code, C# techniques and general software architecture concepts from my team-member-friends. Of course, always it was the two way information flow and we learned from each other.

One of the main concerns during the whole process was the way of organizing work, time scheduling, maintaining the team spirit and keeping the goal set – I’ve learned a valuable lesson based on my personal faults and mistakes, most of the things stated further have caused the most difficulties during the project and thus taught the most.

1. Time is scarce.
2. The leadership pattern should be established
3. Design is incredibly important
4. The use of scheduling techniques, task completion analysis and proper evaluation tools is necessary.
5. Enjoy the teamwork.
6. Never assume that something was understood – make sure.
7. Always have a clear goal in mind.
8. Never think that there is too much work – there will always be more.
9. Do it yourself.
10. Have perfectionism in mind (both its benefits and drawbacks).
11. Don’t get distracted.
12. Keep up the good spirit and enthusiasm.

I have greatly enjoyed working in a team and this experience is incredibly valuable. After going through it I understand how important is the friendly atmosphere, common spirit, team support and discussion. I am happy that I was lucky to get a team with which I have enjoyed working. What is the most gratifying I get from this project right now is the evaluation of mistakes and understanding what can be improved and what more should be learned. After this project I have more ideas and a much better understanding of what to avoid further, what to keep and what to improve (mostly improve).