

Reflections of working as a team

Previous experiences

All of the team members have previously programmed individually and in groups (ranging from two to five members) meaning most of us had some experience of similar projects. With that being said, previous projects were never done with as much planning and documentation as this which proved to be challenging but rewarding.

Discussion

In this section we'll be trying to cover the main differences of working alone compared to working in a group by discussing the fundamental differences between the two and our reflections of it during the past weeks.

Planning

When working in group its important to have good planning of each developers work tasks so they don't interfere. We never encountered any real problems of our tasks interfering thanks to Scrum planning, but tasks were sometimes difficult to plan since the OO model was lacking from the start and we made it up as the project was being developed. Sprint planning gave us a good enough idea on what each member would do each sprint even if we didn't follow it exactly.

By having at least one meeting each work session we made sure that every member was brought up to date on the current situation of the project. Members could notify the group if they needed help or more time on a feature or document. Regular updates also made sure two or more members weren't working on the same thing, thus ensuring no duplication of effort.

Experience

When working alone you are restricted to your own knowledge and experience. If you run into a problem and don't know how to work around it you may have to spend several hours or even more to get past it. This may discourage you to explore new options and features in fields you lack experience.

While working in a group you can always ask someone if you don't know something. For us at the start no one knew anything so we had to find our answers from google, but as we progressed through the project we found that certain knowledge could be shared in the group even though google remains the best answer to most of our questions.

Since we all was on the same beginners level it was good for Scrum where each developer should be on the same level.

Work effort

Work effort in the group has been varying. Certain members of the group has been prioritizing other projects the first two sprint which gave us a slow start.

Conclusion

We feel that we have been able to plan enough to allow five individuals work as a group. It has been especially useful to be a group when it comes to documentation where it was really easy to divide tasks quickly. Even though other tasks was harder to separate, it was still worth the planning to be able to collaborate as a group.