Working on this project has provided some useful insights into the management aspects of a professional project. The major difficulty, as the project manager, was to organize the distribution of the tasks, espescially the reporting and the project management tasks, because each team member wanted to take part on the management aspect, which is the central aspect in this module. Another difficulty was to distribute the tasks over the large amount of time. We decided that we do the planning intially in December and the real project work should start in March, so that it is easier to communicate if everyone is working on the project at the same time, but this wasn’t the optimal approach. It would have been more effective if the project work could be done full-time within a smaller time period, but in our case this wasn’t possible due to company work and other master courses/assignments.

My major task was the project organising and the requirements/specification. While the second aspect was relatively straight-forward, the organising was a lot of work. Creating the task and resource plan took a large amount of time and things had to be changed very often, because some tasks became obsolet and some tasks had to be added during the project work phase. Another difficult planning aspect was to find the dependencies between tasks to generate a meanignful task overview with the possibility to identify the critical path. All in all, the effort for planning this relatively small project was surprisingly high and my respect for the people who are responsible for this in really large professional projects did definitely grow.

The communication within the team and the communication with the customer went really well, which made the project work comfortable. Of course, the aspect that we have known each other before helped here, but nevertheless I am thankful that it worked that well.

All in all, I learned some important things about project management, which will definitely help in my future career, but I’m also happy that I am “just” a developer at the moment and that I am the one who have to care more about technical stuff than about planning and organizing. But with more experience this may change in a couple of years and then the things I’ve learned here could be helpful.