During the description of our system – a system that should support the user by taking out a car out of a parking position - and the planning of the development process, it was interesting to see, at how many places experience would be the most helpful tool. Even the smallest decision in the beginning can have a big impact on the planning and the development process, so every decision should be thought through. Assigning an unfitting task to the role of a team member can have a big impact not only on his own productivity, but also on the productivity of the whole team, if it means he is blocking someone else. The process of finding the right person to do a job is only possible, if one keeps a lot of things in the back of his head. It is not easy to decide whether a person has the needed expertise if you never did a project with that person before. You need to know exactly what skills will be needed and to what degree to evaluate a candidate. The less resources are available, the better the planning must be – the higher of an impact a wrong decision can make.

Another important question is, how well the customer knows his own needs and how well he can specify them. If requirements are clear and understandable, writing a specification can be a pleasant task. If requirements are full of gaps and overall incomplete, a gap analysis and communication with the customer are crucial. Errors done in the planning phase are the most critical ones, since they are also the most expensive ones. This is the reason why agile methods became so popular – the more the customer gets included in the planning and development process, the smaller the chances are, that a misunderstanding slips through into the final product, or gets recognized at a much later phase.

Overall this assignment also showed me, that my strengths and interests don’t lie in complex art of project planning or managing, but in the developer role. Maybe after getting some experience with Projects from the developer side it will become a different story, but for now I would much rather prefer to follow a master plan of someone experienced.