Report for “Lofthus Frukt og Saft” Project

Creating a webpage from scratch, with everything that entails, is a task for a whole team. More than one schedule has to interact with another, minds have to work together, and tasks appointed. First, reading the Course Assignment I was thinking it would be an easy one, but the number of tasks and steps to get to the finish point added up and it became harder to make them all work together.

The major thing I started with was writing down a list of the tasks that needed to be done, then an approximate time for each task to be done. I took a little extra time for each task to be done for a little wiggle room. I made sure the right people did each task and collaboration was marked when appropriate. After writing it all down I decided I needed to add a manager to oversee the project and to handle any IP tasks as needed. The manager would perform managerial duties as well, but I decided only to mark off the IP duties so the manager would know that this needed to be scheduled and completed. Then I made sure to find the critical path by looking at what task would take the longest time. It was harder to find it as I thought all the tasks were in one path, but the front-end developer path was definitely the most time consuming.

After finding the critical path I started making the Gantt chart in Excel, which was the easiest option for me after trying out different software earlier in the week. The hardest part about this was setting out who did what and in what order. It was important to leave enough room so that in case of any delays, which always happens, there would still be enough time to finish the task and move to the next one. I colored in the critical path with red and the rest with other colors. I’m still a little confused by the coloring scheme, but I created a color code as suggested by my tutor’s feedback on the last module assignment.

When setting out tasks like these I realized the project would take longer than I thought at first, 18 weeks in total. Which, in retrospect, is probably not that surprising as things always happen, something get delayed, meetings get rescheduled, or some software isn’t working out. I’ve never been involved in a big project like this one before, so I probably have a lot of things off. I believe it depends much on how the team works together. Have they worked together before, do they have offices in the same location, can someone take over one task if someone gets sick, etc. The main form of communication would be over Slack, as that’s a great way to quickly share information. There would also be weekly phone conferences and meetings as necessary. Files would be shared via Google Drive, where the team have a group set up to easily share and collaborate on documents. On Google Drive is also where the Gantt chart would live, so the tasks can be greyed out as they are completed or the Gantt chart can be updated during meetings as needed.

Overall, my completed Gantt chart isn’t all that complicated or intricately designed, but I believe it would work as a project overview, with sub-Gantt charts for the larger tasks, such as the HTML and CSS design, layout, etc. There are so many factors to take into account when creating an overview for a large project like this one, and my inexperience probably made things off-chart, but it was still a good exercise in realizing how intricate projects are and how important it is to get a good plan out from the beginning.