Chris Savill – chs17 Personal Report

My role in the team was project team leader, my duties were to keep the team focused on the task at hand, plan and manage the team’s direction and resources and keep the team motivated, as well as dealing with reviews and problems within the team. I think I did well as a leader, especially in keeping the team motivated, however there are many areas where I let the team down.

Firstly I have to say that our team was fantastic, we worked really well together, everyone got along, there were no fights or real arguments (except over design, but that was bound to happen) and everyone supported each other and filled their roles well. The main reason our team didn’t manage to get a fully working and fully integrated product was down to me. The reason I say this is that it was my responsibility to make sure we had an accurate and reasonable project time plan/scale, and should have analysed how to implement the servlets earlier. I should have noticed after our demo that we needed a second person, either myself or someone else, to help Ivan implement and integrate the servlets. Although Ivan said he would be fine and wanted to take it on by himself, I as a leader should have realised that it may have been too much of a task for one person alone and assigned someone else to help regardless of his enthusiasm.

I also feel that I should have played a more proactive role in the team such as a coder. I could have brought more the team if I had contributed more to the coding, but instead I decided to focus more on managing. I have learned that to be a good leader and to manage, you can’t just look over everyone; you have to get involved and see what is really happening. Although I did help where needed and managed the team well, motivated them etc., I could have been an even better asset to the team as a coder and maybe the problems we encountered would have been mitigated better if I was coding as well as leading.

Another let down, especially as a general team member, is that I have been ill a lot. I have had to miss meetings that I had arranged and had other people catch me up or even do my tasks due to my illness. As a leader I see this as a big failure. How am I meant to lead a team properly if I am ill all the time? Even if I wasn’t ill enough to miss meetings, I was generally fatigued and less productive due to my blood condition. I know that the university and Computer Science department are aware of my on-going blood condition and continued treatment, but it doesn’t change the fact that my team may have suffered a lot due to it.

On the plus side, I always made sure that the group was on track and working on the right tasks so that the group stayed moving in one direction and didn’t diverge too much. Also, I made sure to keep the team morale up and always tried to organise and/or run the meetings.

On a final note I have to say that not one team member in my opinion did badly, they all did great, no-one let anyone else down (apart from me) and I wouldn’t change the group I had, just changed our approach to the project.