Collaborative Effectiveness Reflection

Collaborative Partner

My collaborative partner for this project was my brother, Hasbi Dulger. He holds a master's degree in computer science from the University of Leuven (KULeuven) and currently works as a software engineer at KBC. Given his expertise in the field, I sought his assistance in refining my blackjack implementation.

Project Overview

The objective of our collaboration was to enhance my existing blackjack program by implementing a meaningful extension. Initially, I struggled to come up with a suitable feature to add, so I turned to my brother for guidance. He suggested incorporating a splitting functionality, which significantly improved the gameplay mechanics. While I was responsible for writing all the code, Hasbi provided valuable input by identifying bugs and suggesting solutions.

Communication

Our primary mode of communication was text messaging, which is how we usually interact. These messages served as a quick way to exchange ideas and clarify doubts. However, since we live in the same house, most of our collaboration took place in person, which allowed for real-time problem-solving and discussions. This face-to-face communication was especially beneficial in debugging, as Hasbi could quickly pinpoint issues and suggest efficient solutions.

Roles and Responsibilities

Our roles in the project were not evenly split in terms of workload, but they complemented our strengths. I was responsible for writing and implementing the code, while Hasbi acted as an advisor, helping me brainstorm ideas and troubleshoot bugs. His ability to think critically and devise scalable solutions was particularly useful. Although he didn't write the code, his input played a crucial role in the development process. This division of labor allowed me to improve my implementation while also learning from his expertise.

Teamwork and Contribution

While the workload was not equally distributed, our teamwork was effective. Hasbi's contributions were essential in overcoming roadblocks, and his insights significantly enhanced the project. His ability to analyze code and suggest structural improvements made a noticeable difference. The imbalance in workload did not hinder the collaboration but rather

emphasized the importance of having an experienced mentor who can guide the process without taking over the execution.

Lessons Learned

Through this collaboration, I gained several valuable insights:
1. The Importance of Clear Communication – Since I know my brother well, our communication was efficient, which streamlined the debugging process. This experience reinforced the idea that clarity in discussions can prevent misunderstandings and speed up problem-solving.
2. Strategic Problem-Solving – Hasbi's approach to debugging focused on long-term solutions rather than temporary fixes. Observing his method helped me develop a more structured approach to handling errors in my code.
3. Collaboration Enhances Learning – Even though I wrote the entire implementation myself, having someone with expertise to provide feedback and suggestions significantly accelerated my learning process.

Application to Future Collaborations

Moving forward, I will apply these lessons to future projects by ensuring clear communication, seeking input from knowledgeable peers, and adopting a more strategic approach to problem-solving. Additionally, I have learned that collaboration does not always mean equal workload distribution; rather, it is about leveraging each participant's strengths to achieve the best possible outcome.