**Individual Reflection**

**Introduction**

Working on the group project for MIT122 – Interactive Web Design and Development totally challenged my skills in programming, adaptation and teamwork. Being part of the team, I was basically responsible for developing the front-end and integrating the pages users will see. The project helped me see how learning from textbooks can be applied to web design when applied outside the classroom.

**Things Done and Benefits Added**

Before anything else, we got together to discuss what the system should include and how it would work. I was responsible for making the wireframes for the homepage, about page and event page. To check things like cleanliness, readability and responsiveness, I made a prototype of the page with HTML5 and CSS3. Since I know Bhutan’s culture well, I made sure that all the designs use local motifs, true event themes and are easy to navigate for users who are not as tech savvy.

When the first layout was approved, I teamed up with the back-end developers to make sure the client-side form checking was as the back-end expected. I coded index.php, about.php and member/events.php myself and helped the admin interface developers to make sure both sets of users experienced the same kind of site. I made a single global stylesheet that made sure the website maintained a similar design.

We used GitHub to help us manage our project and regularly do commits and pull requests which made our code clear and prevented clashes. I performed user studies using two people from outside our group to see how well the website worked and adjusted it such as by using larger input boxes and simplifying navigation when seen on mobile phones.

**Challenges Faced**

Even with a clear breakdown of jobs, we still ran into some surprises. Making my website function correctly on smaller screens was a big challenge and I did it without using advanced tools. The decision was made in our group to stick with a light and native approach, so we coded custom media queries for CSS. Doing this required testing the design on several screen sizes over and over again which took a lot of time.

There was a big struggle in linking our CSS with markup from the PHP. Any page that received data from events live would cause the design to break if the data had irregular characters or was abnormally long. I required flexible CSS and HTML to maintain the fluid look of the site, no matter how the content changed.

Ensuring all files shared the same information was a problem as the project increased. A few components were present on both pages, so we handled it better by using shared PHP files called header.php and footer.php. We discovered why dividing projects by modules is important.

It was not easy to manage my time. Balancing my studies with other groups was tough because several units had deadlines adding extra discipline to my daily routine. Daily, we mostly depended on messenger and WhatsApp to coordinate and update everyone on progress.

**Conclusion**

Participating in this project has been the most hands-on part of what I’ve learned in school. I have learned much more about teamwork in software development than the skills associated with HTML, CSS, PHP and MySQL. It highlighted how important it is to communicate, take responsibility together and keep the design vision in mind. I am very pleased with the way we designed the system to suit Bhutanese culture by making it practical for university usage.

In short, participating in this project has raised my confidence both in front-end development and teamwork. I realize now that designing anything for users means paying attention to both accessibility and the region where they live. My objectives going ahead include working with JavaScript frameworks and getting better at usability testing. I see this work as forming the base that will support my future growth in web application development.