**Web Development (CM1040-01)** Reflective Essay

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## Team 66 (Tutor Group 8)

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# **Roles and contributions**

**What roles did each person take?**

The team project for web development was something that intimidated me; I started this degree last year and previously to that I had no experience with computer science and coding. In addition, the teams were assigned later than expected and I feared my team would be challenged to find time to collaborate on the project, with all of our different schedules and time zones. To my delight, two of my team members introduced themselves as one, a Junior IT Analyst, Project Manager and Software Developer and two, a web developer and systems administrator. They came into the group with wonderful ideas, planning and strong initiative to drive the project. Unfortunately, they stated that making time to have video sessions was not a possibility for them, as they had very busy schedules. As much as they drove the project, because they had the knowledge and experience to do it with ease, the rest of the group offered to help in our own capacity with our varying skillsets. As the rest of us expressed we were less confident and sometimes a bit confused by the content, these two members took on the coding aspect, with our input along the way.

**How were roles divided between team members?**

It was decided then, that each team member should attempt what was suggested as the coding tasks set towards the final website design and that one of the experienced members take all of our work and merge them into the final. It was difficult to code someone else’s idea in an unfamiliar language. Thus, outside of the two experienced members, the rest of the team could not achieve the goals that were set.

**What contributions did team members make?**

As such, the role I offered was to help with some of the planning and design work. Considering the fact, that the coding was undertaken, there was little other work for us to contribute. Admittedly, I felt that for much of the team project so far, I played catchup to just try to understand what was being discussed on the group chat and the tasks and code they shared. However, I learnt a great deal from the two experienced team members in discussing the project and grappling each week to understand their code and how they put the project together. In addition, I believe that their strong work has inspired be to be more confident in the content and encouraged me to contribute more, where I can for the final submission.

# **Your use of HTML and CSS**

**Which aspects of HTML and CSS that you encountered were you able to use well?**

These are the elements I think were well achieved:

* A basic site structure/ framework in HTML, with the addition of static images
* A pure CSS structure for styling, fonts, spatial barriers, creating a navigation bar, and displaying the videos and images in the desired way
* A layered function used in the CSS structure to places certain elements on top of others, creating a layered effect displayed
* A responsive website, based on a well-defined CSS directory
* The URL delivers the correct site to the user, with the correct functions and display
* The URL website and the .zip folder of the code of the website show identical website

## Positive aspects of your team work experience

**What aspects of team working were positive for you? (for example, did you learn from other team members? Did being able to pool work from various people create a more comprehensive piece of work than one person could have produced?**

The collaborative nature of teamwork opens up space for creativity to flourish with all the various ideas and inputs. I believe that working as a team made the project development and completion efficient. The different skill levels and levels of exposure to the subjects / tasks enriched my experience as I had to stretch myself to understand more advanced work and ideas contributed by more skilled members.

**Highlight the aspects of this experience that you most enjoyed.**

I most enjoyed the supportive environment of working as a team. Insight and input were encouraged to thrive and an impressive and ingenious project was created as a result. I especially enjoyed learning from more experienced coders/web developers in the process; I think engaging directly with the code created and understanding the process of building by seeing how they constructed the code week by week was invaluable. In addition, participating in discussions on what tools or methods would work best to create certain ideas was incredibly enriching and positively challenging.

# **Negative aspects of your team work experience**

**What aspects of team working were challenging for you? (for example, if relevant, the difficulties of communicating across different time zones and maybe even cultures)**

I believe that communication and delegation were a major challenge for our group. As aforementioned it was not possible for us to meet on a virtual call during the project development. This made communicating complex ideas and coding a challenged to understand for me over Slack messaging. In addition, the disruption of receiving our teams late, resulted in experienced web development group members offering prepared work that was often advanced and hard to understand without a live discussion. As such, I struggled through this last part of the project to contribute, as I would offer to help but would be told it was not necessary. I understood this, as it is difficult to collaborate on coding, especially when team members are at different skill levels, and it might be more work to explain it to us for us to participate. This is where I would ask the leading team members to delegate tasks where could contribute or supplement the work that they had prepared and continued to work on. As mentioned, it was difficult for them to define these kinds of tasks and I believe they were more comfortable and equipped to work individually on the same tasks and merge them, rather than delegate separate component tasks of the project and perhaps help us make it up to scratch to meet their components. I believe delegation would have pushed the less advanced team members to better their web development skills.

**Highlight the aspects of this experience that you enjoyed the least.**

As much as I appreciated that the project was spearheaded by more experienced team members, the acceleration of the project was difficult to keep up with and there was little room for collaboration; I would say I found this least enjoyable. However, I do think this is something that can be changed moving forward, as I believe I can find more ways to contribute outside of the coding, such as testing, interviewing and design input. I believe this would enrich the project. The project was completed without any hiccups, and we had no problems as a team; I believe we have a strong submission that will continue to be improved on.

## Effects of team work on the quality of the work

**Did you find that the members of the team contributed well?**

I do not believe each team member contributed equally, as has been described above. In the holiday period, I believe each group member worked at different times and it was a challenge to engage and delegate. Thus, I felt, along with other members, lost and unsure where and how to contribute.

**Were there problems within the team that may have affected the quality of the work that was submitted by the team? What was the effect?**

Perhaps, the only problem was undefined leadership and thus a lack of delegation. The effect was an imbalance collaboration and workload in the team.

## Tools you and your team used

**What tools did your team use to help you with your work?**

We used the given group chat on Slack as our communication tool. A significant challenge was engaging with my team members and their opinions and work on a group chat, without being able to engage over a video session and discuss things in detail. We used GitHub as a tool to share work.

**What tools do you think you should have used but didn't? How would they have helped?**

I think this could have been supplemented with a video conferring tool, such as Zoom for example. I believe that Zoom sessions as a tool to engage as a group, would have facilitated dialogue, delegation, and shared learning.