

Group Consensus Statement

Money Club (Team 66)

15-637 Web Application Development

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Consensus Statement:

Team Money Club was successful in implementing almost all of its objectives set during planning phase. The original idea of the website came from another course (17-652) of which one of the team members was a part of. The requirements for the website were clearly defined in the specifications created in the said course. As a result, the initiation phase of Money Club was smooth but we ended up deciding on more features than we could comfortably implement. In retrospection, we agree as a team, that fewer features should have been selected for implementation from the requirements document. This would have enabled us to concentrate more on building a more comprehensive user experience rather than making it a race to complete more features. A minor setback to the team was in the form of one of the team members, Tim Giel, dropping the course. The remaining members of the team decided to keep the scope of the project unchanged. This proved to be a major challenge moving forward.

Although we faced some difficulty in the beginning, we were successful in improving our software process over time and were able to deliver all of the intended functionality except for "Report abuse" features and some minor bug fixes. Our progress through the project and functionality implemented during each phases by a particular member is described below:

We first started out by dividing the features for the first sprint into "Front End" and "Back End" work. While Amey was in charge of backend, Erzhuo was in charge of the front end. This strategy worked poorly for us. As a consequence, integration of separate features took much more time than expected and we could not integrate everything in time for the first presentation. However, we successfully completed all the deliverables enlisted for the first sprint. One thing that the team would like to add is that there was miscommunication between the two team members in this sprint which resulted in some technical difficulties and overhead later in the project. However, this issue was a minor instance of ambiguity in common English but was effectively communicated and handled by the team in the second sprint.

We started to change our software process before starting the second sprint. The second sprint was much smoother and once again we were able to achieve everything in our deliverables list. We were successful in integrating all the features left over from the first sprint and completing deliverables of the second sprint. The distribution of work was more even this time. Both team members were in charge of delivering separate functionality and integrating their own parts into the main website.

The third sprint proved to be a challenge. We had to complete numerous functions and also deploy on the cloud. Erzhuo worked on cloud deployment on Heroku while Amey worked on the remaining features and cleaning the UI. We thought we were done with almost everything when we started doing user testing. User testing was a turning point in our project. We realized that the website had become difficult to navigate due to the distributed development effort of the team and having a predefined conceptual map in the mind of the two developers. We had to change the entire layout of the website to create a smooth, intuitive and understandable experience for the user. This process was tedious and took up unexpected time. However, we believe that this time was well spent and seeing the Instructors use the website during the final demonstration strengthened our belief.

Conclusively, it would have been difficult to implement Money Club without equal contribution from both developers in every aspect and domain of the project.