

Distributed Software Development
Final Questionnaire

First and last name	Lorenzo Pagliari
Country you are from	Italy
Course location (FER / MdH / POLIMI)	POLIMI
Project name	Real-Time Bridge Monitoring
Your role(s) in project	Design Manager, developer

Local site

Rate the overall quality of work coordination at the local site (0-no local communication, 1-very bad, 10-flawless)	9
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Describe good experiences
A very good communication with most of colleagues here in Milan

Describe problems and what caused them
Work rate slowdown for a period due to a component of local work group, that had not enough knowledge base and I, but not only me, had to spend too much time to keep she up. She did not seem to be willing to spend so much time in this project as all others team members already were doing. She also didn't take a polite and respectful language and behavior towards the local team members, especially, but also towards the whole team.

Describe the intensity (not quality!) of collaboration with each of the local team members with the number 0-5; 0-no contact at all, 5-very intensive collaboration	
Local team member	Intensity (0-5)
Andrea Bottoli	5
Ghazaleh Shojaee Nia	1

Describe how that collaboration changed over time (and in different project phases)
The collaboration isn't changed over time. We had always a good communication and communication rate.

Remote site

Rate the overall quality of work coordination with the remote site (0-no remote communication, 1-very bad, 10-flawless)	8
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Describe good experiences
With the whole team I had a very good experience of communication. We were always in contact, we communicated a lot and we tried to keep all the members informed about system information, system changes, customers meeting, customers changes and so on. Coming from a previous not good experience, I was very impressed by this course.

Describe problems and what caused them
From my point of view, there were not relevant problems. The only problem that we encountered was to explain to all members the civil engineer stuff used in this project and in which way they were used; that created some misunderstanding sometimes, but continuing to communicate we solved this problem, or most of them, over time.

Describe the intensity (not quality!) of collaboration with each of the remote team members with the number 0-5; 0-no contact at all, 5-very intensive collaboration	
Remote team member	Intensity (0-5)
Jörn Tillmanns	4
Marko Brčić	4
Miraldi Fifo	2
Dzana Kujan	3
Nikola Radisavljevic	3

Describe how that collaboration changed over time (and in different project phases)
In the first part of the development I collaborated most with the database manager that was Jörn Tillmanns and with the parser developer that was Marko Brčić. After the alpha phase I start to collaborate more with Test manager Miraldi Fifo, and with the View layer manager that were Dzana Kujan and Nikola Radisavljevic to help them to make a view layer that fits better the customers requirements. At the end we return to collaborate all together to fix and finish the documentations.

Communication

Rate (1-low usage, 5-very intensive usage) and describe which communication tools have you used for communication and their usefulness, and in which project phases (requirements, design, development, testing, documentation etc.)

Tool	1-5	Project phases and tool usefulness
Skype	5	Over the whole project to chat
Hangout	3	Over the whole project for video conference meetings
Git Issue System	5	Over the whole project to track work and members responsible of that.
Google Drive	2	During requirements phase, first documentation phase, first part of development phase. However in the first part of project.
Mail	1	Only when the other tools were unavailable or we were not able to use them for some reason.

Describe how you prepared for team meetings

The project manager prepared a Meeting Agenda that was uploaded on the repository before the meeting, so all members can see the topics that we will discuss during the meeting and to make the meeting more fluent.

I prepared myself for the meeting reading the meeting agenda, and preparing questions, topics, observations, notes, that I noticed between last meeting and the next.

Project work

What are, in your opinion, important issues in group work and why?

Issue	Why?
Communication	Without a good communication, is impossible to coordinate a distributed team.
	We had so much communication.

Organization	<p>In a distributed team especially, but also in any team, the organization is fundamental. A good organization comes from a good communication.</p> <p>We had a good work organization that allowed us to reach an excellent result.</p>
A common knowledge base	<p>Is important that most of the team member or at least all the team manager as a common knowledge base to be able to understand what the other members are talking about. I don't mean a deep knowledge but a general common knowledge.</p> <p>In our group when someone explain an idea, all members were able to follow the discussion. After for more insights or further information, there were discussion between specific members that were responsible for that part.</p>
Humility	<p>No one is superman and don't highlight the others mistakes or others knowledge lack. First because in future who pose as the god of situation might be scolded because it is wrong or does not know, and Second this cause an internal fight between members and this destroy communications and availability to work with these people.</p> <p>Our team was always lowly and modest towards all members. Only a local isolated case wasn't not properly lowly.</p>
Availability & Patience	<p>Availability to work with other people from different nations, culture and languages. Availability to work on communication problems. Availability to be patient with the group. Show to be available to work, to be willing to work a lot, to be willing to help others members if needed and if ask of help. Not be lazy.</p> <p>In our group, except a local isolated case, all members were available and willing to work, work hard and work nonstop to reach the result or respect the deadlines.</p>
Behavior	<p>Be friendly, not aggressive, otherwise no one wants work with you.</p> <p>Our group were always a friendly group and I'm happy for that. We worked always with the smile.</p>

What were the causes of conflicts and how were they resolved (if they were resolved 😊)?
We had only few conflicts due to a not available member, solved him, also the conflicts disappeared

Rate and describe how pleased were you regarding information flow in your project team, had you been aware of overall project state, important information and events during the project work or did you feel isolated (1-kept in the dark, 5-completely aware)	
1-5	Description
5	Personally I was informed about the whole project, and during the meeting we insisted that everyone had the situation of the project status or an overall view of the project status.

Rate and describe have you been aware about other people roles and their work status (1-had no idea about other people's work, 5-completely aware)	
1-5	Description
4	During each meeting each responsible explain to the group his, or their if were more, state.

Rate and describe have you been satisfied with your role in the project and tasks you have been assigned during the project (1-very dissatisfied, 5-very satisfied)	
1-5	Description
5	I had no problem with the task that the project manager assigned to me or the tasks that the group decided all together the tasks division.

Rate and describe how much you could affect the project decisions (design, usage of certain technologies etc.) (1-nobody listened to my suggestions, 5-my suggestions were always taken into consideration)	
1-5	Description
4	I was the design manager and than I was the project design responsible, but on the whole project all members have explained their ideas and most of time, the solution adopted was a union of the all suggestions.

Describe the way decisions were made in your project: where there was a single authority that made the decisions and was that authority respecting feedback from other team members, or were you using voting, or consensus had to be reached etc. Also rate (1-our decision process turned to be very bad and degraded the project work, 5-the process was excellent and helped the project work a lot) and describe was that way a good one for your project or not.	
1-5	Description
5	We took decisions all together the most of time. Sometimes on some proposals of someone, if no one was able to provide him a feedback or an opinion, we let this person decide. But most of the project, even if the whole, we have discussed everything all together without preference of role.

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Rate (1- no clear requirements, 5-very clear requirements) and describe how clear the initial requirements were.	
1-5	Description
1	At the beginning the requirements seemed not very clear but during the project they are changed more than expected

Rate (1-no or minor changes, 5-huge changes) and describe the level of requirement changes during the project	
1-5	Description
5	There were a lot of changes in requirement during the development, but most of them were adding, not properly changes, but we had to apply always little changes to our system to fit the new requirements.

Describe the process you used in the project (waterfall/iterative/prototyping/agile/model driven/test driven ...). Why have you selected that particular process? How did it turn out – good or bad?	
We used waterfall for the first part of the project, so for the design part and then for the development phase we used an iterative approach with SCRUM.	

How much (0-no new things, 5-too many new things) you had to learn new technologies/tools/etc. to be able to do your work in the project? Describe what you had to learn.	
1-5	What you had to learn
2	<p>Personally I learned how to use better threads in java to be able to optimize my code and to be able to do a good parallel and concurrent executions.</p> <p>I learned also the scheduling with Quartz, that is a scheduler for java but is also compatible with Apache-Tomcat.</p> <p>I also learned something about Apache-tomcat relative to the scheduling process of a web server.</p>

What is your final opinion on distributed software development (not on this DSD course!), given in number from 1 (distributed development is useless) to 5 (distributed development is the best), and why?	
1-5	Why?
5	Because allows you to get in contact with other people from different cultures and backgrounds that think in a different way from you. Allows to learn many things and know many people, to do so many experiences that normally is not possible, and most important is that this is a scenario in which is more probable and frequent to find in or be involved.

What was the influence of your project system architecture on work division and task allocation?
Our system was designed as a layered architecture so this made easy the division of the roles and the allocations of the tasks for the entire duration of the project.

What were the experiences in integration of your task(s) with other project parts?
We had some problems due to the requirement changes when we tried the firsts integration tests. But after defined the requirements the integration was quite easy due to a very good design; of course we had our problems but the integration phase was on the whole easy and painless.

What factors motivated you, and why, for working on your project (and their strength 1-minor, 5-strong motivation)	
Motivating factor	1-5
Is a good experience	5
Learn how to work in a distributed team	5
Learn how to work with peoples that have different backgrounds	5
Improve my english	3
Test my skills in a distributed scenario	4
Know other people	3
Work on a real project/problem	4

What factors demotivated you, and why, from working on your project (and their strength 1-minor, 5-strong demotivation)	
Demotivating factor	1-5
Afraid that my bad english could be a problem	1

Analyze the differences between predicted and actually invested work hours on the project. What caused the difference (if there was a difference)?
We spent more hours than expected due mainly to the requirement changes/adds

What would you do differently if you were to participate in another distributed project (based on your experience from this project)?
For me, this course was a lovely experience and I think that we have encountered problems like in a real scenario and that was very useful. So I think that from my point of view this experience has no relevant defect, so I don't know what could be change to provide a better experience.

Cultural differences

How would you describe cultural differences you have observed (choose from: <i>no differences/low/medium/high</i>)?	medium
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Describe cultural differences have you observed and rate their impact on project work with a number 0-5 (0-no impact on project work, 5-high impact)		
Difference	Description	0-5
Approach to work	Different approach to work, someone like a more formal approach than other a less formal approach	2
University organization	How different universities organize and schedule the classes or the courses.	0
Schedule of the day	How people schedule it own day	0
Precision in work	Different level of precision in work	1

For project and team leaders only

Describe your experience regarding high level team coordination (task assignment, task synchronization, communication with team members, coordination with remote team, etc.)

Risk assessment - have you foreseen all risks that happened during the project, how did you handle them, which risks you have not planned for, what was their impact on project schedule, product quality, etc?

How much time (in %) was spent on different project phases (requirements gathering, design, development, testing, documenting etc.), why?

Project phase	Time (%)
TOTAL	100 %

Speaker's Corner

Answers to questions we have not posed. Feel free to write about anything you find important, but haven't had a chance to do it in answers to previous questions!

I'm very happy to have attended this course. It provides me a very good experience and gives me the opportunity to improve my team work skills and to meet good guys and teammates. Also I had the possibility to work on a real project, with real problems that we faced and solved, with real customers that give you never, or almost never, requirements well defined.

I'm proud and glad of the job that the RTBM team did, and I'm proud of my teammates and also I want to thank all the DSD staff, supervisors and customers to the patience and the availability to us.

We also had on the Italian side the possibility to go in Sweden to meet our colleagues that are our friends; I'm sorry to not being able to met also Marko in Croatia or in Sweden.

I'm completely satisfied by this course and I would suggest it to others students.