

Distributed Software Development

Final Questionnaire

First and last name	Marko Brcic
Country you are from	Croatia
Course location (FER / MdH / POLIMI)	POLIMI
Project name	Real-time Bridge Monitoring
Your role(s) in project	Documentation Manager, Developer

Local site

Rate the overall quality of work coordination at the local site (0-no local communication, 1-very bad, 10-flawless)	10
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Describe good experiences
It is easy sometimes when you are a one guy team

Describe problems and what caused them
It is also hard to communicate only on distance with the other team members

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)
I was the only local team member	

Describe how that collaboration changed over time (and in different project phases)
No other local members unfortunately

Remote site

Rate the overall quality of work coordination with the remote site (0-no remote communication, 1-very bad, 10-flawless)	9
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Describe good experiences
We had a weekly scheduled meetings on Hangouts, two times a week and we regularly communicated by messengers and when there was a need, we usually put additional meetings during the week.
The good thing is that in 95% of the cases the whole team participated, that's because we made a Doodle pools to find out time which is suitable for all team members

Describe problems and what caused them
The problems was about the work distribution, mainly regarding the implementation part, which was a bit slow, but with time it got better

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)
Jorn Tillmanns	5
Dzana Kujan	4
Nikola Radisavljevic	4
Andrea Bottoli	4
Lorenzo Pagliari	5
Miraldi Fifo	3
Ghazaleh Shojaee Nia	1

Describe how that collaboration changed over time (and in different project phases)
At the beginning the communication went very good because everybody was enthusiastic and in to the project. At the end and especially around the holidays, people were a bit tired from the semester and the project and we had less meetings and people were not that much into working any more.

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
Hangouts	5	All the project phases, very quality and free group video call, possibility to share screen
Skype	3	Not working with group video calls or sharing screen in free version, mainly used for chating in all the project phases
Mail	4	Efficient communication when forwarding important things to others
Google spreadsheet	5	Exelent tool for brainstorming remotely during period bigger then a usual call duration. We made some sheets which we all edited and it was functioning in a good way during all project phases
Mobile	5	Excelent tool for getting a quick information, but used really rearely

Describe how you prepared for team meetings
Tried to do my work on time, so I can report the new info and/or status. Thought about questions that I had and tried to write them in the google spreadsheet file in the sheet "Questions" prior to meetings

Project work

What are, in your opinion, important issues in group work and why?	
Issue	Why?
Communication	Passing the information between team members is most important thing and if done in best way greatly increases efficiency and work done. One thing also needs to be taken into consideration, and that is that the communication itself needs to be efficient and as short as possible in order to improve efficiency and increase the work done by team.
Skills recognition	If tasks are distributed in a way that each team member is assigned with the tasks in which he has previous experience and greater skills than others, then also the work done and efficiency of a team will increase
Cultural differences	They need to be taken into consideration. Team members should respect each other cultures specifics and a lot of compromises need to be made in a certain situations because

	if people agree better and if good atmosphere is inside team greater thing can be done.
Work distribution	There should be a hierarchy and there should be the ones responsible for distributing tasks and workload, because people are lazy in general, and they should be assigned with tasks to motivate them in solving them. The task planning and distribution along with the tasks progress and description should be well documented.

What were the causes of conflicts and how were they resolved (if they were resolved ☺)?	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One conflict that I had with one of my colleagues is that I did some part of implementation from scratch, disregarding the fact that he already done some work prior that was meant for me to use in my implementation. I didn't take time to study the part that he did. It was not OK from my side. He was unhappy for a good reason. I apologized to him later. • The other conflict that I had was with a team member that didn't stay on the project till the end. The problem was that when I offered to help with the problems in setting up environment and I started helping, I didn't receive enough patience from the team member that I was trying to help. That team member treated me like I was some customer service that is not able to help him resolve the issues occurred. I was unsatisfied and gave up helping that team member. The conflict was never resolved.

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	We often had meetings where everybody was present.

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	On each meeting usually people talked shortly about their work status

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)	
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1-5	Description
4	I was mostly satisfied with the tasks that I have been assigned to

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
5	All the team members opinions were taken into considerations and most of the decisions were made as a group

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 made all the major decisions as a group.

Rate (1- no clear requirements, 5-very clear requirements) and describe how clear the initial requirements were.

1-5	Description
3	The initial requirements were not completely defined. A lot of new requirements were defined during the project. Some of the existing requirements also changed during project.

Rate (1-no or minor changes, 5-huge changes) and describe the level of requirement changes during the project

1-5	Description
3	The requirements changed during the project but mainly through receiving new requirements, and a bit by changing the existing 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 choose a mix of waterfall and agile method. We used agile method in each phase of

waterfall model. Waterfall model is not so flexible, so I prefer more agile method. In our project, there were changing requirements, so more agile method of development method would be suitable.

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
4	Egit, Github, Open office, MySQL, administering and configuring Linux server, git

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?
3	<p>Centralized development is better because of one very important reason, and that is flow of information which is much better if people are talking directly and if team members are able to show directly in person what to press, type, where to find the part of code, etc.</p> <p>I also encourage distributed software development, because it is sometimes hard to find the homogeneous team assembled of skilled individuals with variety of skills. And if that team is able to circumvent the disadvantages in distributed information flow and cultural differences present, I think distributed software development is awesome.</p>

What was the influence of your project system architecture on work division and task allocation?

The work division and task allocation were not so influenced by system architecture, mainly because everybody had the same access to all project's resources. We set also the development environment in the same way on each member's working station.

What were the experiences in integration of your task(s) with other project parts?

Tasks should be defined and assigned in a way that their integration is easier.

What factors motivated you, and why, for working on your project (and their strength 1-minor, 5-strong motivation)	
Motivating factor	1-5
Prove distributed software development can work	4
Prove to one professor that I can do it :-)	4
Pass the course so I can finish faculty as soon as possible	5
Good team	4

What factors demotivated you, and why, from working on your project (and their strength 1-minor, 5-strong demotivation)	
Demotivating factor	1-5
Unequal participation of each team member	4
Conflicts with other team members	2
Problems in flow of information inside the team	3

Analyze the differences between predicted and actually invested work hours on the project. What caused the difference (if there was a difference)?
The prediction was correct in general. 20 hours per week, in some weeks I worked more, in some weeks less.

What would you do differently if you were to participate in another distributed project (based on your experience from this project)?
Better organize things at the beginning and communicate more.

Cultural differences

How would you describe cultural differences you have observed	No differences
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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!

- There should be an option to have the presentation template in Prezi, or at least encourage students to use it