Milestone 7

Project Reflection and Report

<u>Git –r Done</u>
Audrey Puls
Nick Montoya
Dan Schwabacher
Le Qin
Yifan Li
Ruiwen Jin

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1. Introduction

Throughout this semester, team Git –R Done has been working to develop LaziCard, a birthday card delivery service website which minimizes work for the user by auto-generating birthday cards. LaziCard allows users to create and store information in an address book where they can choose the option to have a physical or electronic birthday card sent to anyone within their address book.

2. Project Reflection

During this website development the members of LaziCard have used many different software methods and tools in order to successfully communicate, plan, and share information between group members. Slack was used for communication between members. This was a great success. This allowed each member to receive a message on their phones, which we all carry daily, alerting the group to any changes in plans, meeting times, or any other important information pertaining to the project. Slack was particularly preferred over cell phone messaging because our group members all have different cell phone brands and group messaging between different cell phones did not work. For example, at the beginning of the semester Le could not receive our group messages. Slack instantly solved this problem. Other examples of using slack include notifying the group of the rooms we would hold the weekly meetings in, as the rooms changed from week to week. We also used slack to inform team mates about when we have pushed something to the repository.

Trello was also used during the semester to organize and assign what needed to be done. Towards the beginning of the semester we tried to use Trello at the end of every Monday meeting. This was mostly successful. We would add tasks, due dates, and assignments. At the first retrospective however we discovered that we were not using Trello as effectively as we could be. The group decided we needed to use Trello at the end of each Monday and Friday meeting and be sure to be more specific about the tasks being assigned.

3. Project Report

Throughout this semester LaziCard has accomplished a lot. At the beginning of the semester we had goals to create a website that would allow users to create an account and login easily, be able to store information about their friends in an address book, and have a birthday card automatically generated and sent annually if they so choose.

We have achieved 95% of these goals. We have a functional login, sign up, and home page. Customers can successfully sign up for our product and their information will be encrypted and stored in a database via Passport, the middleware between Node and JavaScript. This database has been populated via MongoDB with 3 collections storing information about both the user and contacts in their address book. The user can add and edit entries to their address book.

The only outstanding issue and remaining feature left to implement is a system to check the date against the database and send out the appropriate emails with attached birthday cards. As of now, the site is fully functional, but an email will not be sent out yet.

To achieve these plans in the future we need to take time at the beginning of a project to organize exact tasks. These tasks need to be talked about in detail and planned such that each component of each task is outlined. This specificity will allow the group to completely think of everything that needs to be accomplished in order to plan our time more adequately. Our group met every Monday for about 3 hours, and every Friday for about 15 minutes and created two sprint cycles. This was helpful for short term bursts and kept us on track during the beginning of the project. It would likely take one more week to complete the project. I think we fell behind because of November break. Next time we would be sure to account for any breaks in the school year.

Overall we worked well together as a team and have created a viable product for the market.