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| Johns Hopkins |
| Kaleidoscope Project: Team Project Reflection |
| Semester Reflection |
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| **8/8/2020** |

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**Problem Statement**

Discuss the contributions of each team member from the entire project perspective and how each member performed throughout the five milestones. What role did each person have? Leader, follower, organizer, integrator, visionary, etc.

Individually, did each person contribute his/her fair share? What activities did each person do well and on what tasks could he/she have improved?

What activities did you do well and on what tasks could you have improved?

As a team, what worked well? What could have been improved?

What did you learn working together with your team?

**Assumptions**

N/A

**Computations**

N/A

**Discussion/Conclusions**

Each of the team members, Brian Hoelzer, Emily Christian, Jason Zhao and myself contributed throughout the project, sometimes in different roles for each of the milestones. There was some evolution of roles throughout the project based on need, experience and expertise. For example, when creating the SDP, there was some team forming and no real leader, but a lot of good collaboration and delegation between members to split up the large amount of work for the SDP. For the BOE, I felt like a leader for that portion since I did a lot of the computations which were the backbone of the final report, while the rest of the group were able to integrate that and create a great report. For the BOE reassessment, we were able to pivot from an assumption that we made in the BOE with good input and organization from Emily. For the risks and metrics section, Jason and Brian Hoelzer did a great job to step up as leaders/organizers and take the harder portions of the report, allowing Emily and I to fill integrator/support roles. For the schedule, Jason Zhao played the visionary role to find teamgantt software allowing the team to avoid using expensive and confusing Microsoft project, and acted as a leader for that portion, allowing each of the other team members to act as organizers in discussions and integrators for report creation.

Individually each team member contributed a fair share and each member was invaluable to the team. Losing even a single member would result in a great increase in workload for the other members of the team. While I feel each team member contributed relatively similar workloads, some teammates had different strengths. For example, Emily has prior experience in software project management, and was happy to share that experience with the rest of the team. Jason is organized and has good vision for what his ideas should look like and is able to effectively get team members on board. Brian Hoelzer is a bit of swiss army knife in the way he can assume any role on a team and perform well. I believe I did a good job focusing the team and ensuring the reports closely matched what was expected from the team.

If I am thinking critically about myself, I think that some of my strengths in the project portions of the course were in computation aspects, organization, and keeping meetings moving and focused on end goals. Some potential weaknesses may include writing ability (could always use more work in this department) as well as sometimes trying to rush to complete assignments. I was also the first to suggest that we could use one COCOMO parameter for the entire BOE, however I think given the information that the group had at the time I would make the same decision again (hindsight is 20/20). This lost each team member quite a few points on the BOE, and due to the point distribution was impossible to really make up on the BOE Reassessment. To mitigate my weaknesses, I would regularly practice my writing skills and making sure that I allow team discussion to circle back to priorities naturally, rather than pushing for continuous progress, since that may inspire more team creativity.

As a team, I think we did a great job communicating and working together. Team members were able to assume all sorts of roles like leader, organizer, integrator, etc. and change that role on a week to week basis to allow for more team flexibility. Team members also had very little ego, allowing for constructive criticism, exchange of ideas, and centering easily on the best idea, even if the idea was not “theirs”. Disagreements between team members were few and far between, and each team member had a strong understanding of the course material. Some things that may have been improved was more consistency in our meeting schedule, meetings were often at different times on different days and different points of the week. This made following the meeting schedule challenging. While a perfectly consistent schedule may not be possible for the project since each of us are part time students and have other responsibilities, a more consistent schedule may have resulted in more consistent communication and reports.

In working with the team I was able to learn a lot about managing software projects and staying on top of reports. Obviously learning more about software project management is basically a given considering the course, this was likely the most important thing learned with the team. Many other skills like working in teams, communication, delegation, leadership, keeping teams focused, etc. are skills that had been developed on sports teams, school and work, however these are skills that can always be worked on and improved.

Overall it was a great semester, I had a great team, and I am happy that I was able to meet and work with each of my excellent team members.