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Our group is creating the Amazon application. Amazon is an electronic commerce company that almost everyone has heard of, and a company that most people have ordered from. Amazon is one of the big four tech companies along with giants Apple, Facebook, and Google. Our group consisted of around 20 members and we had some difficulty deciding which company to pick. After a day of our initial meeting, we all agreed on Amazon. Our large group split into four teams of 4 or 5 people, with each team focusing on one aspect of developing the application. This breaking down of the large group helped each individual team focus on a single task. This evenly split up the work between the entire group and allowed each team to be able to communicate much more easily with 3 or 4 other individuals as opposed to an entire group of 20. This was evident when even deciding on a company as a large group, it took one day for everyone to agree. We chose to use a google document to communicate our work in progress specification requirements. Everyone can access this document at any time and make any changes to his group tasks by adding features and ideas. We have also chosen to communicate via a WhatsApp group text where everyone can address an issue at the same time. My teams task was to develop the user account signup form. As a smaller group, we could all hear what each person felt was important to be included in the specification requirements for the signup form. With a small group, everyone could present an idea or thought and can fully explain it since it was only to a few other individuals. Subdividing the tasks within the group also allowed each member to specialize on different ways to implement each feature within that sub task.

One benefit I see in working in smaller teams as opposed to individually is that as a team there are certain specifications that another team member can envision that might not have crossed your own mind. A team member working on the same overall general task will come in with a different experience as they themselves have had different experiences and views. Similarly, hearing other people’s perspectives on your own ideas and thoughts can help you fine tune and adjust them. Another benefit of the small team dynamic is that everyone is always involved since it is a small team. In the larger group, there would always be one person or more who would not be involved. It is possible this is because they were silently agreeing. It also takes longer to solve issues as a group as not everyone has a similar work schedule and different times work for different people.

There are however some disadvantages to working in groups as opposed to individually. As an individual, there is less time spent planning. Working individually can be done on your own time whereas in a team setting there is a time that works for everyone. Another benefit of working individually is that any idea you have will be used. In a team setting there might be people who disagree with your idea or a majority agreement in the team to not implement your specific idea. Working individually is a hundred percent representative of you and your work, whereas in a team it’s a group effort and a conglomeration of everyone’s ideas. An individual is more likely to take responsibility for their work as opposed to members in a smaller team who might find it more easy to point the finger.

I believe that working a group setting will ultimately allow this task to be completed in a timely manner. Although it takes longer to get started as a group, once a group gets started it tends to work fast with multiple people doing different things simultaneously.