

SEM5640 Group Project
Report

Go!Aber

*Submitted in partial fulfillment of
the requirements for the award of the degree of*

**MEng
in
Software Engineering**

Submitted by

110024253	Connor Goddard
110007212	Helen Harman
110005643	Craig Heptinstall
110036072	Samuel Jackson
110059989	Daniel McGuckin

Department of Computer Science



December 2015

Abstract

This document outlines and describes the design, implementation and testing of a fitness tracking application ‘GoAber’. GoAber is a dual language (JavaEE and .NET) web application to allow educational institutions to interact and challenge each other. Students and staff are able to sign up, join groups such as courses or departments, and join challenges from inter-university groups, or groups in other universities. Communication between users will be sent via the web, and data will be stored within a single database at each institution.

This project follows an agile approach to development, and puts to the test a number of agile practises, and wide variety of technologies. This project has been performed in a similar style to a professional real-world project.

Contents

1	Project Overview	1
1.1	Detailed requirements	2
1.1.1	Management of users, authentication and authorisation	2
1.1.2	Activity data	3
1.1.3	Data auditing	3
1.1.4	Challenges	4
1.1.5	Updates and emails	5
1.1.6	User interface and internationalisation	5
1.1.7	External endpoint	5
1.2	Desired and required libraries	6
2	Development Methodology	7
2.1	Analysis of the Project Characteristics	7
2.1.1	Team Resources	7
2.1.2	Technical Complexity	8
2.1.3	Project Budget	9
2.2	Methodology Process	10
2.2.1	Work Planning	11
2.2.2	Design	12
2.2.3	Development & Testing	13
2.2.4	Progress Monitoring	14
3	Design	15
3.1	Use Case Diagrams	15
3.2	System Architecture	21
3.3	Database Design	23
3.4	Activity Diagrams	25
4	Implementation	29
4.1	Version Control	29
4.2	Initial Development, Database and User Authentication	30
4.3	Fitbit and Jawbone	31
4.3.1	.NET	31
4.3.2	JavaEE	32

4.4	Scheduling	32
4.4.1	JavaEE	32
4.4.2	.NET	33
4.5	SOAP API	34
4.6	Challenges	34
4.7	User Interface	35
4.8	Internationalization	36
4.9	General Issues	36
5	Testing	38
5.1	Unit Testing	38
5.1.1	JavaEE	38
5.1.2	.NET	38
5.2	Continuous Integration	39
5.2.1	Automated Continuous Integration	39
5.2.2	Manual Integration Testing	41
5.3	User Interface Testing	42
5.4	SOAP Communication	44
5.4.1	.NET	44
5.4.2	JavaEE	45
5.5	Cross Browser Compatibility	45
5.6	Community Communication	46
6	Project Status	47
6.1	Incomplete Features	47
6.1.1	Administrator setup of Categories (D-FR2)	47
6.1.2	Fitbit (D-FR3)	47
6.1.3	Email notifications (E-FR3, E-FR4 and C-FR4)	47
6.1.4	Authentication and authorisation (D-FR11)	48
6.1.5	Individual Progress (E-FR4)	48
7	Critical Evaluation	49
7.1	Platform Comparison	49
7.1.1	Implementation	49
7.1.2	Internationalisation	50
7.1.3	Database	50
7.1.4	Configuration	51
7.1.5	Testing	51
7.1.6	Conclusion	51
7.2	Development Methodology	52
7.2.1	Design	52

7.2.2	Setup	52
7.2.3	Implementation	53
7.2.4	Agile Practices	53
7.2.5	Development Tools	54
7.2.6	Conclusion	54
References		55

List of Figures

3.1	Shows the different login & registration actions that a system user (participant, coordinator or administrator) can take. These actions are associated with D-FR11.	16
3.2	Shows the different account administration actions that can be performed by a participant of the system. This references requirements D-FR1 and D-FR10.	17
3.3	Shows the actions that can be performed by the three types on activity data. These were taken from requirements D-FR5, 7, 8, 9, 10	18
3.4	Shows how actors will interact with groups of users. This is in relation to requirements D-FR1, D-FR10	18
3.5	Shows how actors will interact with the system in terms of challenges. These reference requirements C-FR1-4 and E-FR1	19
3.6	Shows how a user can authorise a device with an external system (e.g. Jawbone/Fitbit). This relates to requirement D-FR3.	20
3.7	Shows some additional uses cases that can be performed by a system administrator. These action are all taken from requirements D-FR1, D-FR8, E-FR3 and E-FR4.	21
3.8	High level conceptual overview of the proposed system.	23
3.9	An entity relationship diagram showing how the data model in both of the applications interact with one another.	25
3.10	An activity diagram showing the states that a user can transition between when authenticating with the system.	26
3.11	An activity diagram showing the states a participant/administrator passes through in order to delete activity data.	26
3.12	An activity diagram showing the workflow for device authorisation.	27
3.13	An activity diagram for the management of user groups in GoAber.	28
3.14	An activity diagram for manually inputting user data into the sytem.	28
5.1	JavaEE unit tests.	38
5.2	.NET unit tests	39

5.3	Selection of builds that have been run during the project. . . .	40
5.4	Example of a build that has been performed.	40
5.5	Example of a pull request	41
5.6	Cucumber test scenarios	42
5.7	Cucumber steps	42
5.8	Cucumber test results	43
5.9	Cucumber test results, generated inside HTML pages	44
5.10	The .NET SOAP client application.	45
5.11	Unit tests for the SOAP operations in the .NET project. . . .	45
5.12	Unit tests for the SOAP operations in the JavaEE project. . .	45

Chapter 1

Project Overview

Following from the brief provided at the start of this project[14], we are able to clarify a detailed overview of the application requested by the client. A new system to be named ‘GoAber’ will allow members or ‘participants’ from a university to interact with other participants enabling them to record activity data such as step counts, distances travelled and heart rates.

The system should allow a number of methods for entering activity data from sources such as Fitbit[8] and Jawbone[13] devices, alongside manual and external entry via an application API. The external API will then be able to cope with users who wish to use other devices such as smart watches or health tracking mobile apps.

Users should be able to access the system either via a vanilla system or through their university emails, though the different sign-on systems of universities may have to be considered. With the data entered by users, they would then be able to interact with other participants on a deeper level, through challenges. With challenges, the overall purpose of the application is to enable staff and students from a wide set of universities to keep active, and give them incentive while comparing their efforts to others. The application will give each participant the opportunity to work as a team when performing challenges, by allowing them to become a part of a ‘group’. For instance, a certain department or group of individuals at a university may want to be represented, and therefore compete with other groups.

Following on from groups and interacting with users, it is important that different levels of authorisation are followed for anyone logged into the system. There are a total of three level of authorisation required of the system:

- Participants - as mentioned previously, will be part of a group and university(community).
- Coordinator - A user with privileges to create challenges, and add users to a group that they created.
- Administrator - A higher level user, with all the abilities of the coordinator, but with the abilities to edit and remove participants activity

data, groups, and communities.

The final high level features that the system should be able to perform is to use the activity data entered by participants to display some form of league table in order to rank groups, institutions and individuals. Alongside this, a scheduled email system will be in place for users to receive updates on their performance in challenges, and produce emails when a user is inactive for a certain length of time.

The client has asked the system to be implemented in both JavaEE and .NET, allowing a more flexible choice of installation for universities that may want either a Linux or Windows machine to run their server. Each running instance of the application should be self dependent, and only send or request data from the others when interaction such as challenges occurs. A thorough set of testing should be performed before the release of the application to ensure that the user interface functions correctly. The bilingualism the user has asked for should also function properly, while the logic in the back of the application should be tested through unit tests and stress testing to ensure the application can withstand a number of concurrent users.

Finally, this report outlines the process of work completed during the project, detailing each stage of the project. Any modifications or clarifications to the original client brief will be described in the following section.

1.1 Detailed requirements

The requirements spoken of here are based off the initial requirements specification document [14] and some of the key requirements are mentioned alongside their requirement codes. Before the design of the project began, a few clarifications have been made for some of the requirements in a QA session with the client, all of which are described in the group project meeting minutes. These will be available in the 'docs/minutes' folder in the hand-in. To describe the requirements of the application, parts of the application can be grouped by functionality.

1.1.1 Management of users, authentication and authorisation

The first of the requirements that should be available to the user is the registration and signing into the application. As mentioned in the requirements specification under D-FR1, the system should allow users to be added to the system and to a group within a community. As discussed with the client

in the first meeting, signing up for the site should be available both using the university credentials (SSO), or a vanilla log in, with a safe means of credentials storage.

Alongside the registration of users, there should also be the functionality to edit user details and remove them. All levels of users should be able to perform these actions, though it was clarified in the QA session that only admin-authorized users can edit and remove others users. Other administrator level activities only applicable to those users include renaming groups, removing groups, renaming their community, and deleting any other users' activity data. The auditing of other users' data is described in the auditing section of this chapter.

To clarify how users will connect through groups and communities, the example below highlights an example scenario:

A groups such as 'Computer Science' would be contained within a community such as 'Aberystwyth University', and a participant would be added to Computer Science by a coordinator that created that group. Then if for instance another group challenged Computer science the user's activity data would combine with others in their own group to compare their totals with the second groups. This is a similar story for communities, where totals of all participants of a given community could be compared with another community.

1.1.2 Activity data

The next subset of requirements required of the system is the integral need for activity data to be saved. As mentioned in the overview, the user will be able to link Fitbit and Jawbone devices (of which data will be grabbed on a daily basis, or by syncing manually at any time), alongside manual entry of data. This has been outlined in D-FR2, which also mentions that there should be some means of saving all types of activity mutually.

This was another part of the requirements specification that was clarified with the client, where it was decided that categories of activity data could be expected as always a numerical format and should be dynamic to allow for more categories to be added. A final clarification here was that although dynamic addition of categories of data should be possible, three types (walking, cycling and running) will suffice at this point.

1.1.3 Data auditing

Alongside the entry of data, D-FR8 was a feature of the application that the client was intent on being implemented. The auditing of data should be

possible for administrators and for participants (where the participants are only changing or removing their own data), and notes should be left by the remover to allow for a reason to be left to a user wanting to know why data was modified or deleted.

An extension of the auditing data feature that was clarified again with the client is the auditing of all actions by the administrator. Unlike the data auditing, this would mean an auditing record should be created for any administrator level user that performs an action only available to them. Another highlighted clarification of this requirement is that all auditing should be final, and that no rollback functionality is required. For instance, if an administrator deleted data from a user, to undo this action would not be possible.

1.1.4 Challenges

Linking back to the way users interact in the system, challenges is one of the largest and most important aspect of the proposed system. C-FR1 to C-FR4 outline the challenges requirements, though again clarifications have been made since starting this project. Rather than assuming a challenge will be sent to another community or group for them to accept, the flow of challenges should be as follows:

- Coordinator of a group creates a challenge
- A coordinator from another group joins the challenge
- Both groups users can compare the competitions progress and statistics

In addition to the information about overall progress, users in a challenge should be able to see a league table within their own group. It was clarified in the QA session that summaries for each user should be available to all others in their groups, meanwhile outside their own group, only a very basic stat should be visible. This goes also for privacy of names and personal information, which should only be visible by people in their own group, although users will need control of their user name, which could be made anonymous if requested. As for higher level users, administrators will see all users details within challenges, and coordinators will see the same information but at a restriction of only overall data.

Upon completion of a challenge which will be decided by length of time of the event, it will be the responsibility of the coordinator that created the challenge to publish results and inform any participants taking part. Although this should be automated, initially sending out results should be completed

by the coordinator to give time for validation of the data. Alongside the emailed challenge results, data from completed challenges should be visible on any participants dashboard upon their next log in to the application.

A smaller additionally desired but not essential feature discussed during the QA meeting was extra results for categories such as 'best walkers' etc.

1.1.5 Updates and emails

This brings this part of the requirements specification to how emailing will be handled. Emails are an additional though highly desired part of the brief responsible for both sending mail out for completed challenges and for reminding inactive users to register data. Where reminders and challenge news is sent out, the amount of time between each automated email should be modifiable by an administrator.

As discussed with the client, the default times for each email type should be as follows:

- Participant progress emails - Weekly
- Missing readings emails - Daily
- Results of users - Manual

By combining the automatic tasks of sending emails and receiving data from external services, it should be possible to make use of a general scheduler to help perform a range of actions when the user decides.

1.1.6 User interface and internationalisation

Because the application will be a web application, it is key that it has an easy to use appearance that is preferably mobile friendly. The client has agreed that the default appearance using Bootstrap[20] is allowed here. In addition to a friendly user interface, internationalisation is a required feature of the system, and should provide the user the ability to switch between at least the English and Welsh languages with opportunity for more.

1.1.7 External endpoint

Although part of D-FR5 covers the requirement of receiving data from a variety of means, a mention to the requirement that the application should have an API endpoint should be made. The API (to be SOAP) will be required to allow interaction between different servers running the application in order for different communities to communicate and send challenges.

Alongside this, the API endpoint should also be able to receive generic activity data to be inserted into the system (though the client has clarified that this part of the API will only require POST, and can only receive data).

1.2 Desired and required libraries

In addition to the requirements of the application, the client has requested that third party software should be made use of to encourage a faster implementation of the product. Uses of third party software was discussed during initial meetings, with some group members already having a good knowledge of possible email libraries and OAuth libraries to help with the connectivity to Fitbit and Jawbone services. Both of which will be discussed further in this report, with reasoning for why such libraries were chosen.

Chapter 2

Development Methodology

Prior to initiating any technical design or implementation, it was first necessary to investigate and select an appropriate development methodology capable of maximising both the feature-set and quality of the end product, whilst managing within the constraints of the allocated project budget.

2.1 Analysis of the Project Characteristics

In evaluating the suitability of a particular software development methodology (SDM), there exists an intrinsic relationship between the individual characteristics of a project, and the overall effectiveness a development methodology demonstrates. With this in mind, a project team must first identify the specific considerations that exist in relation to their project, if they wish to perform an accurate evaluation of a given development methodology.

Within a typical software project, critical areas for consideration tend to focus on aspects including: the predicted level of technical complexity, the type and severity of imposed budget constraints and the level and availability of project resources. Having first completed a thorough analysis of the customer requirements, the team found themselves in a suitable position to define what project-specific criteria a given SDM would need to address, in order for it to be put forward for consideration.

2.1.1 Team Resources

Consisting of five full-time members, the team represented a size that was standard for projects of similar size and complexity typically seen across the software development industry [18].

Given that all five members would be participating in a development capacity, it became clear that large bodies of technical work (e.g. an individual customer requirement) would require splitting into a number of smaller and more manageable tasks. As well as providing an opportunity for the team to discuss and establish the exact details of a given requirement (referring back

to the customer if required), this process of breaking-down the high-level requirements into more tangible items of work would subsequently provide a level of scope in which individual tasks could be assigned for completion within a relatively short, yet realistic timeframe. Ideally, these distinct blocks of work would remain isolated from one another, so as to negate the risk of bottlenecks forming caused by sequential dependencies on the work undertaken between two or more developers.

For requirements presenting more in-depth functional behaviour, the situation could arise where multiple developers have to work together, either on accomplishing a single task, or in the more likely case, on *individual tasks* that reside within the same *functional domain*. From analysing the requirements specified by the customer, the team identified a number of situations in the project timeline where the latter case was likely to be experienced.

One such example was predicted for the implementation of challenges (C-FR1, C-FR4), where it was concluded that the various tasks necessary to implement such a feature would become too tightly-integrated to allow for a complete decoupling of those tasks between developers (e.g. in the case of the work between opening a new challenge and closing an existing challenge). In this situation, it is highly likely that a given developer may in fact have tasks assigned to them that focus on entirely different aspects of the end product. A suitable development methodology would therefore have to support the possibility of managing work taking place concurrently across multiple functional domains (e.g. user registration, login and challenges all at the same time).

2.1.2 Technical Complexity

With the expectation that unforeseen technical issues were likely to arise given the team's lack of experience with the specified web technologies (ASP.NET and JavaEE), the team were keen to ensure that should the situation call for it, both current and future work could be re-scheduled in response to ongoing technical issues or following a need to conduct redesigns of the architectural structure.

These same concerns were also considered in relation to the design process, where - in considering the overall complexity of the expected systems and the lack of technology-specific experience within the team - it was generally agreed that undertaking too much detailed design up-front was (for the most part) likely to be in vain, and also presented a significant risk of causing future design restrictions or complications that would inevitably become greatly more expensive to fix following the implementation of core system components.

Following on from the design and implementation of the two systems, performing appropriate testing was clearly going to be of great importance in guaranteeing delivery of a quality product to the customer. In addition to evaluating the overall stability of the two systems, the team recognised that testing also provided the primary mechanism by which it could be confirmed that the implementations continued to correctly uphold the functional and behavioural requirements initially specified by the customer. With this in consideration, testing was to become directly integrated as part of the overall development process. It was the hope of the team, that by enforcing the successful completion of testing prior to accepting the marked completion of a given task, it would become possible to avoid many of the costly bugs and changes that tend to arise in the absence of sufficient testing.

2.1.3 Project Budget

Within any software project, arguably the most crucial aspect falls to the level of budget allocated to it. The consequences of failing to correctly manage a software project within the constraints of the available budget have in recent years made headline news [15], typically costing vast amounts of time and money that have since far outgrown their originally agreed limits.

In the case of the *GoAber* project, it was to be time, rather than any financial cost, that would represent the primary constraint upon its allocated budget. With a total duration of just under two months, the team quickly realised that given their overall lack of experience with the specific web technologies, delivering all of the expected requirements within this timeframe was likely to become an unachievable goal. For this reason, it therefore became a necessity that work could be prioritised, so to give clear focus and effort on those areas of the system deemed most crucial by both the developers, and more importantly that of the customer.

Whilst for this project the customer was able to provide a comprehensive collection of requirements up front, in the event that the customer wished to make alterations or introduce new features much further into the project, then of course it would become highly desirable for the adopted development process to demonstrate a reasonable degree of flexibility in response to sudden changes. Of course, an ability to prioritise tasks would serve little merit if the only time that this was to take place was at the start of the project. Given that there was a high risk of work becoming delayed due to technical challenges, it would become just as important for the adopted development methodology to not only allow for the flexible *re-prioritisation* of work, but also for it to provide *regular* opportunities in which both the team and the customer could discuss together what, if any, priority changes should be

agreed.

2.2 Methodology Process

Following analysis of the considerations set out for the project, it soon became clear that an agile approach would be prove to be much more appropriate than that of a traditional plan-driven approach.

In the case of a plan-driven approach to software development (e.g. Waterfall), the process that a project follows takes the form of a set of distinct lifecycle ‘stages’, in which it is expected that tasks including the design, implementation and testing of a system are conducted in total isolation from one another following a rigid sequential order.

Whilst an agile approach also follows a process of development through iteration, in contrast to plan-driven methodologies, these iterations tend to be much shorter and more frequent. Consequently, the agile process presents a much greater opportunity for development teams to frequently review the current progress and technical status of a project, thereby allowing for appropriate action (such as the re-prioritisation of tasks) to be taken much sooner with the aim of reducing the overall cost that the identified issue has on the overall project. Agile also supports (and actively encourages) the simultaneous design, implementation and testing of multiple system components. This has the major benefit of enabling development teams to distribute their efforts much more efficiently across the range of features to be implemented, and allows for the deployment of specific skill-sets and knowledge to focus more precisely on areas where they would be deemed most effective.

Given the concerns raised over the need to re-prioritise work in the likely event of technical issues, and the lack of confidence shown in producing a detailed design up-front, the sequential nature of a plan-driven approach would be expected to provide very little in the way of useful support. Indeed, it would not be an unfair assessment to state that an approach adopting such a rigid framework would be likely to cause more hindrance than electing to adopt no particular approach at all.

By choosing to follow an agile approach, development work was able to begin much more quickly, which in turn allowed for key observations and new-found knowledge contribute back into ongoing design and implementation discussions.

2.2.1 Work Planning

The decision was taken to adopt a SCRUM-based approach for the planning, recording and organisation of project tasks. Given that it itself is founded upon the idea of empiricism [18], SCRUM boasts a capacity to appreciate that unpredicted changes (identified as highly probable in the analysis of the project considerations) can not effectively be addressed using a fixed sequential approach.

Having first decomposed the high-level requirements into a collection of individual units of work (known formally as Product Backlog Items), all of the foreseen work planned across the entire project was allocated an initial priority, before being added to a top-level product backlog ready for future partitioning into what would become a series of time-boxed project sprints.

To maximise the focus given by the team on project development rather than on its management, the team chose to utilise a third-party service ¹ to manage the overall planning of the project and its work. Providing free usage for up to five developers, Visual Studio Online (VSO) [2] represents a complete suite of web-based tools designed to replicate a fully-comprehensive development ecosystem. As well as providing interactive tools to planning and monitoring project tasks, VSO also boasts an integrated build system and automated testing environment. Further details on some of these features are discussed later in this section.

The routine prioritisation of work undertaken for each sprint iteration was typically based upon on discussions conducted internally within the team. However in situations where severe changes in priority were required (e.g. in the case that a feature needed to be dropped), these discussions were naturally also extended to gain the opinion of the customer. In the event that new work items were discovered, these were added immediately to the product backlog, in anticipation for allocation into a future sprint.

Each sprint followed a 6-day development cycle, allowing one full day off a week to allow time for focus on other projects. The only exception to this pattern was that made for the first sprint, where it was decided that a 2-week sprint duration would be more appropriate to allow developers enough time to experiment with the ASP.NET and JavaEE technologies prior to producing worthwhile components.

Sprint planning meetings took place every Tuesday morning, indicating the transition from the end of one sprint, and the start another. These meetings focussed on the planning of work for the coming week, providing an opportunity to discuss any changes that any member of the team (or indeed the customer if necessary) felt were required in light of events take

¹<https://cgddrd.visualstudio.com/DefaultCollection/GoAber>

took place over the previous sprint. These meetings also represented the one formal appointment each week to meet with the project manager (Nigel Hardy). Although its main focus was for the manager to ensure that the project remained on track, these appointments also provided an opportunity for the team to gain specific guidance relating to both organisational and technical queries.

On the final day of the sprint (Monday), a sprint review and retrospective meeting was conducted to inspect and discuss the work completed (review) along with any changes that were deemed necessary relating to the process and tools currently in use (retrospective).

After considering the existing frequency of contact between developers, formal daily scrum meetings were not expected to bring much additional value, and so for this project were not arranged.

Given that all five team members were expected to contribute to the technical development of the two systems, it became inevitable that some members would have to be allocated multiple roles in order for the team to correctly adhere to the principles set out by the SCRUM approach. One team member was selected to become the product owner, who held sole responsibility for managing the product backlog, and providing the communication link between the team and the external customer. Another developer was selected to become the scrum master, and as such was expected to provide advice and guidance to other team members on how best to conform to the SCRUM principles in order to maximise the overall benefits of adopting the methodology.

2.2.2 Design

Having previously established that a detailed up-front design for the two web-based systems was likely to represent a poor choice for this project, the team instead needed to choose a design strategy that presented regular opportunities for the design to be reviewed and updated appropriately following feedback acquired from previous observations and research.

Held in high regard by those supporting the ideas behind Extreme Programming, evolutionary design describes a design process which allows for the design of a system to be modified as the system is implemented [9].

By adopting such an approach for this project, the team were able to address identified issues right from within the *underlying design* of the system, rather than been forced to write generally untidy and potentially dangerous patches that could at best, only mask effects of the underlying problem.

2.2.3 Development & Testing

In order for evolutionary design to remain beneficial and not become a hindrance, the team would have to be prepared to perform regular refactoring of code alongside extensive testing of both the stability and functional capabilities of the two systems [9].

Adopting Git as the underlying version control system, all code was pushed to both a primary and secondary remote repository (Visual Studio Online and Github respectively) in case of an event where the team experienced service downtime from either supplier. Due to the maximum user limit enforced by Visual Studio Online, the secondary repository also provided both the project manager and the external customer with access to inspect the current technical state of the project.

With the aim of minimising the risk for poor quality code and bad programming practices to become introduced into the end products, the team defined the use of two ‘special’ branches for protecting the current working state of the project held within the repository. Following principles introduced originally by the *git-flow* workflow [6], the repository always held the *current working state* of the project inside what is known as the ‘master’ branch. In the event that the customer requested a copy of the system to inspect, it would be the version held inside ‘master’ that the team would provide. In light of this, no changes were permitted to the ‘master’ branch without explicit approval from at least two other developers. Under normal operating circumstances, the only time that a change to ‘master’ would ever be permitted would be when the team wished to bring across the new feature set that had previously been implemented and thoroughly tested over the last sprint. To allow the opportunity for developers to integrate their new features during a sprint, a second branch called ‘develop’ was defined, that held the latest integration of feature sets recently completed within the given sprint.

Whilst it would be permissible (although undesirable) for breaking changes or build errors to be found within ‘develop’ branch, it would be wholly unacceptable for this to be true of the ‘master’ branch. For both the ‘develop’ and ‘master’ branches, automatic policies were setup using Visual Studio Online, that ensured all merge requests for either branch had to be performed via individual pull requests that required approval by two other developers prior to merging.

Continuous integration was also established for the ASP.NET project using the automated build and testing service provided as part of the Visual Studio Online application suite. Unfortunately, this task proved to be much more involved in the case of the JavaEE project, and subsequently become

too much work to complete within the available remaining time.

Although no formalised approach to testing was defined within the project, all team members were made aware that responsibility for ensuring the stability of their submitted features fell solely on their shoulders.

Whilst much of the testing for a given section of code was to be undertaken by the its original author, the submission of a new pull request provided a critical opportunity for other developers to test the submitted code prior to it being merged into the main ‘develop’ branch. With the author providing test instructions directly within a pull request, reviewers were free to either accept or reject the request based upon the results of their testing. By being able to also leave comments on the pull request, it became possible to easily communicate any errors to the author, and if required, engage in dialogue before re-testing submitted fixes.

2.2.4 Progress Monitoring

Accurately tracking the progress of work is an aspect that is vital to the success of any software development project, and as such requires careful consideration in order to provide truly representative and useful performance information.

As a consequence of managing work via the Visual Studio Online system (and one for which the system was originally selected), data relating to the progress and overall performance of SCRUM sprints were provided via automatically generated burn-down charts representing the measure of work completed against the remaining work outstanding over the time period assigned to the given sprint.

To obtain an estimate as to the team’s overall performance in completing assigned tasks, Visual Studio Online also provided a breakdown of the overall velocity demonstrated throughout a given sprint. By comparing these velocity estimates across a range of subsequent sprints, the team was able to identify possible cases of both over and under-estimation of work expectations, that then allowed the accuracy of this estimation to become consistently better as time went on.

Chapter 3

Design

This section outlines the initial designs for the system to be produced. As this project is being developed using a Scrum based development methodology, there is no concrete up front design for the system. Much of the design presented here was created during the initial stages of the project and therefore has been subject to change throughout the implementation stages of the project. However, we were not going to start development on the project without any design whatsoever, especially since nearly all team members were unfamiliar with the technologies we were going to be working with. Unless otherwise stated all designs are applicable to both the .NET and Java EE systems.

3.1 Use Case Diagrams

The first real piece of design to be undertaken was a detailed analysis of the requirements specification. This initial step aimed to tease out what was likely to be the most challenging, unintuitive elements of the project. Through this discussion we were able to draw out what we thought were the major use cases for the different system users.

Figure 3.1 shows the use cases for registering and logging in a user to the system. Note that all types of the system user can perform these actions regardless of their role. By “vanilla” login/registration we mean a custom login system specific to the site that does not interact with another site via SSO etc.

Figure 3.2 shows the different actions that can be performed to administer a user account with the GoAber system. These are mostly common sense and would be the sort of actions normally expected of system such as this. Note that in figure 3.2 administrators can do everything a participant can plus modifying their privileges. Changing user privileges is the only action that cannot be performed by anyone other than an administrator. “Deactivating” a user account will leave an audit record in the system but will remove all activity data as well.

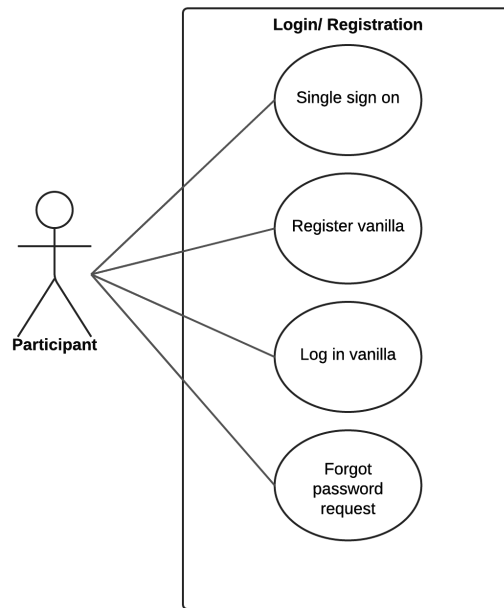


Figure 3.1: Shows the different login & registration actions that a system user (participant, coordinator or administrator) can take. These actions are associated with D-FR11.

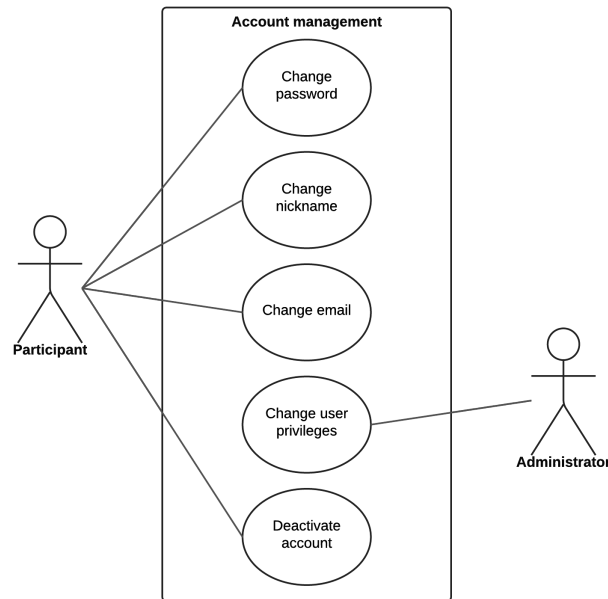


Figure 3.2: Shows the different account administration actions that can be performed by a participant of the system. This references requirements D-FR1 and D-FR10.

The next use case diagram (figure 3.3) is arguably the most important in the series. This gives a loose summary of how the users will interact with their activity data in the system. It also shows which actors have permission to carry out particular actions. As mentioned before, administrators can carry out all actions that co-ordinators and participants can. Co-ordinators can only view information about themselves and others, much in the same way as users, but can obviously perform CRUD actions on their own data.

The diagram shown in figure 3.4 shows the interactions that can be carried out on groups of users. Administrators have the permission to perform CRUD operations on a group and have the ability to add participants to a group. Participants are only able to view a summary of other people in the group.

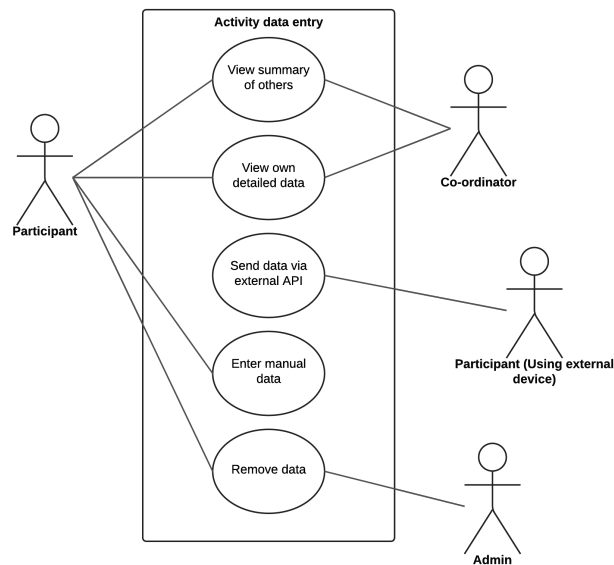


Figure 3.3: Shows the actions that can be performed by the three types on activity data. These were taken from requirements D-FR5, 7, 8, 9, 10

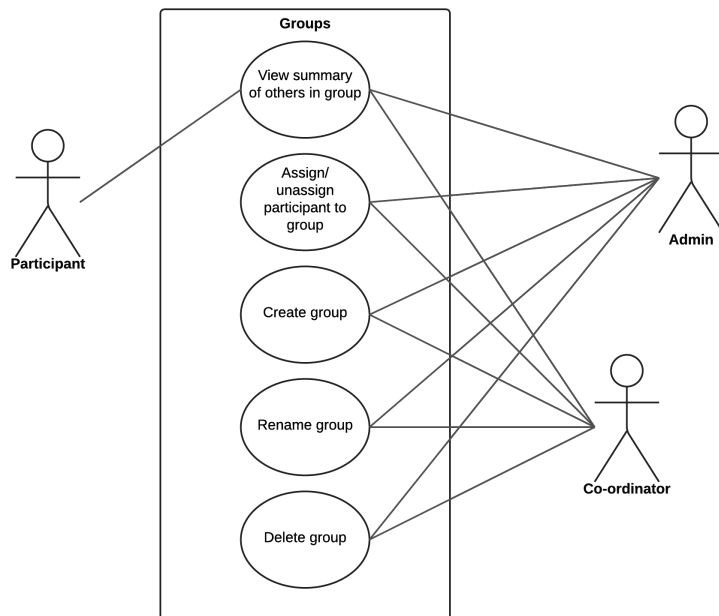


Figure 3.4: Shows how actors will interact with groups of users. This is in relation to requirements D-FR1, D-FR10

Use cases for challenges are shown in figure 3.5. Here, the major differ-

ences to be aware of are the differences between what actions a user and coordinator can perform. Users can only view information about challenges while coordinators can setup and edit challenges between groups and communities. Administrators will be able to perform all of these actions.

Figure 3.6 shows a couple of additional participant use cases which will be required in order to allow users to authorise their devices with our system. Participants should be able to authorise their devices another system via OAuth.

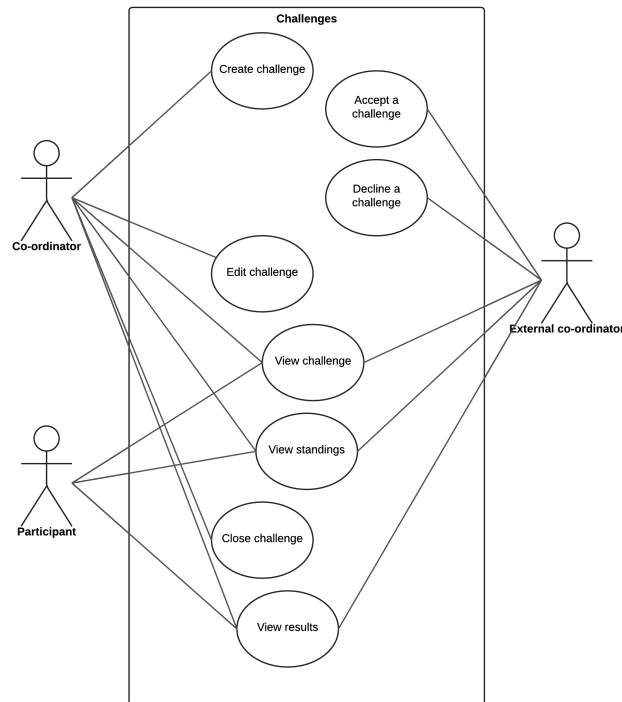


Figure 3.5: Shows how actors will interact with the system in terms of challenges. These reference requirements C-FR1-4 and E-FR1

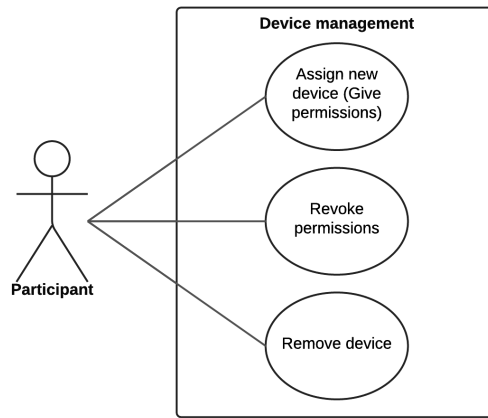


Figure 3.6: Shows how a user can authorise a device with an external system (e.g. Jawbone/Fitbit). This relates to requirement D-FR3.

Finally, figure 3.7 shows some additional use cases for system administrators. This figure simply states some additional actions which were not included in the other use case diagrams. Administrators should be able to schedule the emails that get sent out from the system as well as edit and delete users.

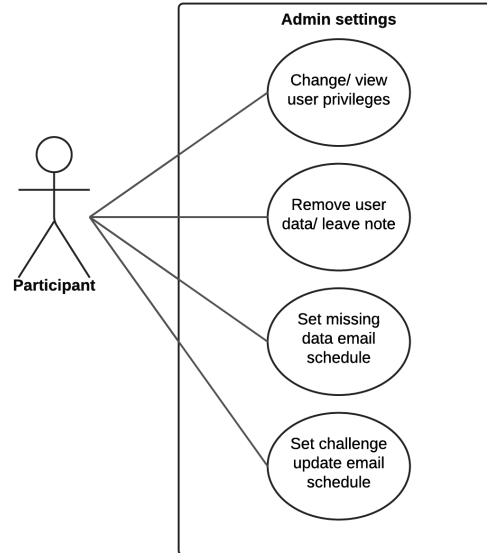


Figure 3.7: Shows some additional uses cases that can be performed by a system administrator. These action are all taken from requirements D-FR1, D-FR8, E-FR3 and E-FR4.

3.2 System Architecture

This section discussed the high level system architecture that we conceived in the very early stages of the project. Figure 3.8 shows a formalised version of the early system architecture. We in no way expect the final design of the implemented system to accurately reflect this diagram. This diagram was a useful by product of early discussions to try and understand how the final system might hang to together. This was a key discussion that lead to us identifying parts of the system that we did not readily understand or that we found to be ambiguous.

This design was originally produced in rough on a white board, allowing us to shuffle key elements around until we were in agreement on how each part should work. Afterwards the diagram was formalised into figure 3.8 to be preserved as a design artefact. This overview is meant to be independent of the technology used (either .NET or JavaEE). This, combined with the fact that a Scrum based methodology can and will allow us to be flexible with the design are the major reasons why the final system will almost inevitably differ from this diagram. However, as mentioned, it played an important role in getting all team members on the same page before diving

into implementation.

The system in diagram 3.8 can be split into two parts: “our system” on the left hand side and the “outside world” on the right. The outside world consists of regular human users (participants, coordinators, and administrators) but also includes other computer systems. For example, other GoAber systems need to communicate information about users and challenges between one another. Other systems that need to be communicated with are the Fitbit/Jawbone servers and with generic SOAP input.

The diagram shows several connections from our system to the outside world. The most obvious one, in the top centre of the diagram, shows that users can connect to a front end website. Conceptually this component is broken down into two parts: the views (what the page looks like) and the controllers (how the views get displayed). The models sit further back in the system and are accessed by the controllers.

Below this component is the SOAP web API. This provides an access point for remote systems (i.e. non-human users) to communicate with our system. This includes both other community servers and potential other devices.

The third point of access in the bottom centre of the diagram is the most complicated part of the external communication systems. This shows a scheduling component, inside of which is nested a data collection component. The scheduling component will be responsible for firing off events both internally and externally. For example, internally this will be responsible for closing a challenge on time. Externally it will be used to periodically request data from the Fitbit and Jawbone APIs and as a timer to send out emails.

Sitting behind these front three layers are the business logic and data models for the system. These are shared by all three of the components described above. This part of the diagram is deliberately left more vague than the other parts of the diagram. As mentioned in the preceding chapter, we are using a Scrum based methodology and producing a big up front design would be going against its guidelines. Additionally this section of the system is highly likely to be specific to .NET and Java EE. For this reason we will choose to keep the low level design decisions of this part of the system up to the developer. Broadly speaking our approach in this project will be to keep the .NET and Java EE systems structured similarly. Both systems should share the same model structures, unless the specific implementation forces us to change for some reason.

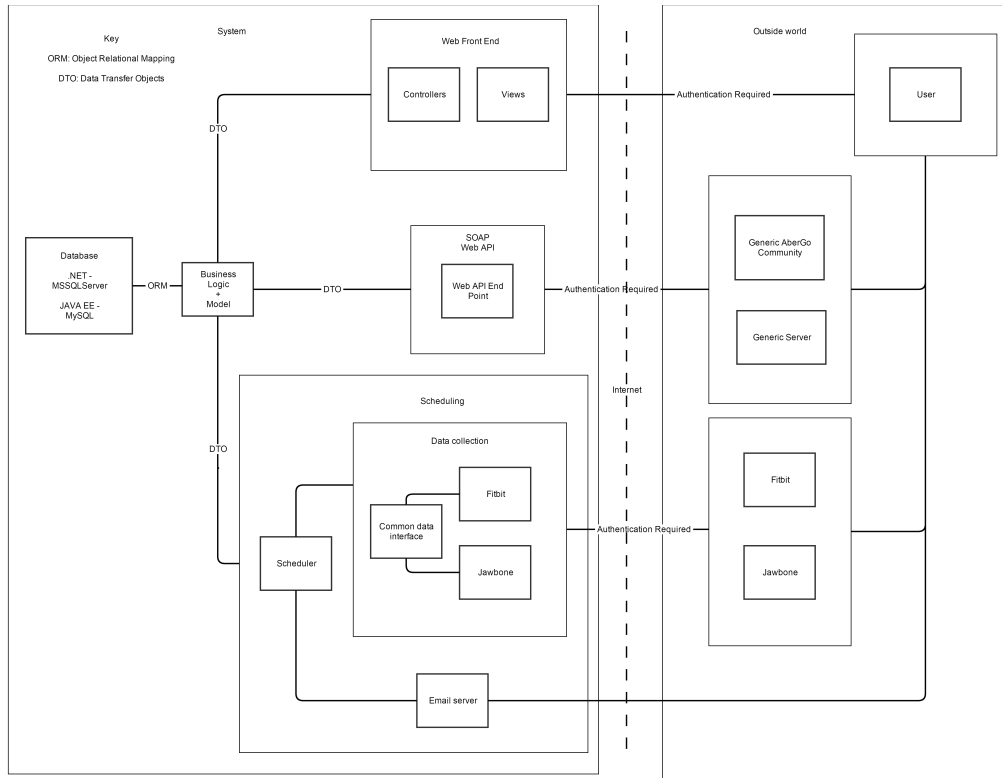


Figure 3.8: High level conceptual overview of the proposed system.

3.3 Database Design

The second major piece of design that we undertook in preparation for the implementation of this project was to come up with an entity relationship diagram which would form the basis for the model code in both versions of the application. Once again, in practice it is likely that this design will need to change once we become more familiar with the two different technologies we are using.

This, like the high system architecture in the previous section was very important to do early on in the project. It helped to solidify how we were going to represent data in our system and gave good starting guidelines for the team members who implement these designs.

Starting to the right of the diagram is the *ActivityData* entity. This is perhaps the most important entity in the entire system. An *ActivityData* item is a single piece of activity data for a particular user. An *ActivityData* entity is associated with a particular system *User* and also has a reference to a *CategoryUnit* entity. A *CategoryUnit* is simply a linking table between the

categories (such as “running” and “swimming”) and units (such as “steps” or “strokes”).

The system is designed in this way so that there is decoupling between the value of the data stored in the system and the category or unit it belongs to. Every activity data item will simply be stored as a numerical value. The interpretation of that value is determined by what the associated category or unit is. This allows the database model to be flexible to the number of different types of activity data that the client may wish to store in the system.

This formulation has several distinct advantages. Firstly with this approach there is no need to introduce null entries into the table as you would have to do the type of the data was store alongside the value itself. Secondly, it means that it would be easy to add the ability to introduce new categories and units should the customer require. Thirdly this makes the system almost completely independent of the type of data that a user might want to store. As long as the activity data item is a numerical value, no changes to the database structure are required to introduce the new type. The only exception to this is if the new type of activity data to be introduced happened to be categorical instead of numerical. But even in this circumstance another table could be easily created (e.g. *CategoricalActivityData*) in order to support it.

Moving onto other parts of the model; in the centre of the diagram is the *User* model. This will store almost all of the information about a user (name, email etc.). A user record also has a link to a user credentials table, which contains their password for the system and other authentication data. Additionally users also have a user role associated with them. The user role specifies what type of user they are and permissions they have (e.g. participant, coordinator or administrator).

Along side this user data a user may also register several devices. The devices entity stores the data about a specific device that a user has connected with the site. Each device has a device type. The device type stores the details for connecting to a specific third party site that can be polled by our code for activity data. In this project those sites will be limited to Fitbit and Jawbone.

The top of the diagram shows the tables that will be required to implement the challenges portion of the system. Each user can be associated with a group. A group is conceptually a list of users. Each group belongs to a single community. Groups can have challenges associated with them. A challenge entity contains information such as the start and end date and the type of activity data that is associated with it. Participants in a challenge are linked using the *UserChallenge* entity.

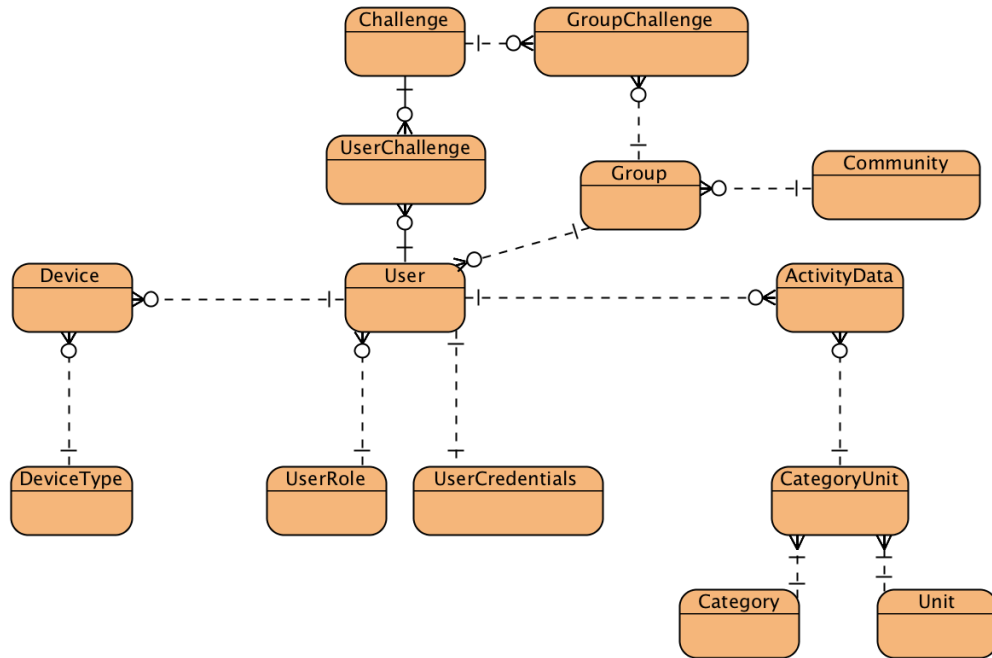


Figure 3.9: An entity relationship diagram showing how the data model in both of the applications interact with one another.

3.4 Activity Diagrams

Alongside the other diagrams presented in this section we also found it useful to produce some state diagrams to try and get a better idea of how a user will transition from one state to another around the site.

Figure 3.10 shows an activity diagram for authenticating a user in the GoAber system. There are several different paths that a user should be able to follow though the login procedure. If they are already registered they can directly login. If not they must first register with the system before proceeding. In either of these cases if their details fail to validate they are redirected to the appropriate page.

Figure 3.11 shows the workflow for both a participant and an administrator needs to pass through in order to delete activity data from the system. In the case of a participant they should be asked to confirm the deletion. If the user is an administrator they should be also asked to provide a reason for why the data is being removed.

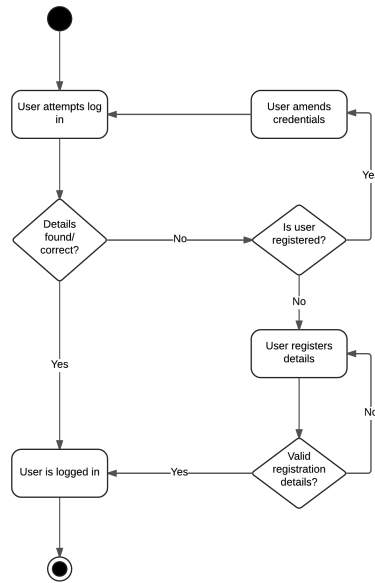


Figure 3.10: An activity diagram showing the states that a user can transition between when authenticating with the system.

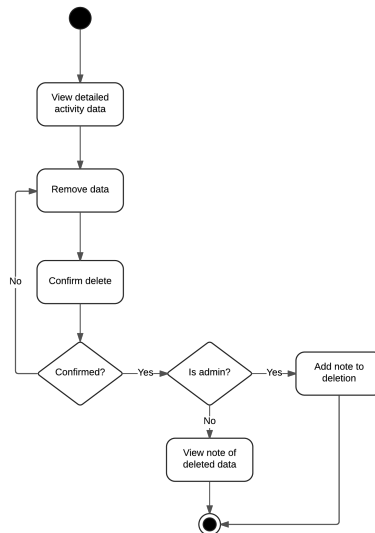


Figure 3.11: An activity diagram showing the states a participant/administrator passes through in order to delete activity data.

The next figure (3.12) shows the states of the workflow for authorising a users device (e.g. a Fitbit or Jawbone device) for use with our system. Users

should be able to view which devices are connected to the system and revoke access when desired. They should also be able to add a new device and the system should handle if the external site returns a failure.

Group management activities are shown in figure 3.13. Most of these actions are fairly self explanatory but there is a slightly non-trivial case where we wish to add a user to the group. In this case we must check to make sure that they are removed from their old group as they can only ever be affiliated with one group at a time.

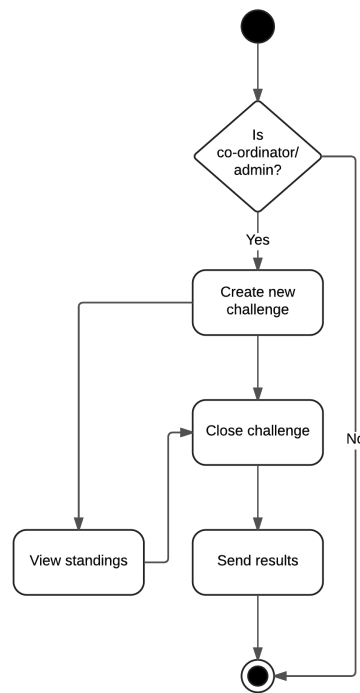


Figure 3.12: An activity diagram showing the workflow for device authorisation.

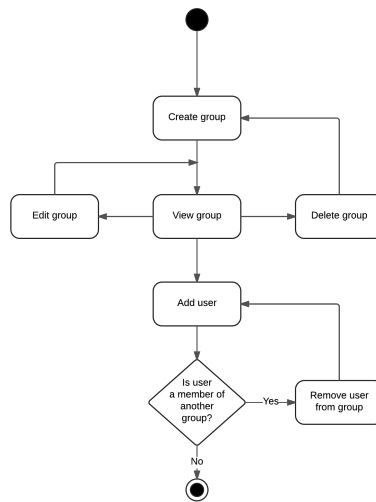


Figure 3.13: An activity diagram for the management of user groups in GoAber.

In figure 3.14 the activity flow for entering data into the system is shown. Activity data can be entered manually by participants in which case their data is validated on submission. With external systems there is the potential possibility of a connection failure and that we get bad data back. This could be either from a device API or manual input for a third party device via the SOAP API.

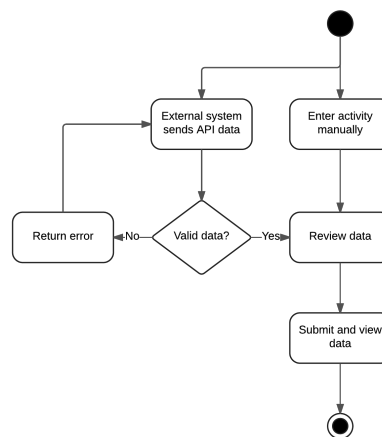


Figure 3.14: An activity diagram for manually inputting user data into the system.

Chapter 4

Implementation

4.1 Version Control

It took some time at the start of the project to get our version control (VC) methodology running smoothly. Members of the group were not familiar with using Git and it took them some time to understand its workflow, the required commands to use it and how to solve common issues like merge conflicts.

The second reason was that we were using two remote repositories: Visual Studio Online[2] and Github[10]. Visual Studio Online was used for our team collaboration software, we could assign each other tasks, view burndown charts and create pull requests. It aided us in our project management.

Unfortunately there were a limited number of users who could view the code, therefore an additional repository was required for our client and manager. This meant that we had to set up our local repositories to push to both remotes and to never add anything to the projects via the online interfaces as this would cause the projects to come out of sync. This caused unease among some members of the group when using Git initially for fear of breaking the repositories which slowed down work to some extent. Getting all members sorted on using our chosen VC systems was part of the reason we decided to allow two weeks for the first sprint.

We had a lot of trouble early on with files being ignored that shouldn't have been and vice versa. At first we had the nbproject folder excluded from Git, this included the build.xml files for the JavaEE project. None of our projects would build and we realized that only the private folder within the nbproject folder should have been excluded. We had further issues in .NET with build files being included when they should have been ignored. .NET migration files also rendered after the solution project file (which couldn't be excluded) and caused merge conflicts almost every time.

It was hard to figure out exactly what we should include in Git so that all of our projects would build correctly but also what to exclude so that we didn't have clashing (for instance) build files when merging branches. We

had this sorted after the first couple of weeks but it took time figuring out the best setup.

4.2 Initial Development, Database and User Authentication

The work in sprint one was dedicated to getting the barebones system setup. Both .NET and JavaEE were scaffolded and integrated with a MySQL database. We felt that using a database first design would allow us to automatically generate a lot of code which would speed up the development of the system and using a common database structure and management system would help to ensure consistent features between the two projects.

The creation and integration of the database in both projects caused a bottleneck in the first sprint; other members could not get their work implemented on the system straight away as they had to wait for the database to be merged into the project. This could not be helped and was the other reason for a two week initial sprint.

We had a lot of problems with integrating .NET with the MySQL database. We found that although our database-first design was a good idea in principal, in reality when we came to implement features in the project we were having to make many unforeseen changes to the database structure. Migrating the .NET code to newer database versions was a lot simpler when using a code first approach as we could simply scrap the old database and regenerate a new one using our model classes.

Another issue was that the .NET Entity Framework required the database structure to be structured a specific way when applying user authentication. This caused problems when using MySQL server and simply would not work. To get around these issues we decided to change the DBMS in .NET from a MySQL Server to a Microsoft SQL Server (MSSQLS). MSSQLS integrated far more naturally with the .NET project than MySQL had. For instance updating the database was now a matter of adding a field to a model class and running a couple of commands. We no longer had to regenerate the model classes like we had using the database first approach. User Authentication now also worked.

A downside to this was that we effectively had to maintain two databases. The MySQL Server for JavaEE and MSSQLS for .NET. This led to extra work as we had to maintain the scripts for the MySQL Server and the models for MSSQL Server separately. It also did not promote consistency between the projects, we felt that this did not matter too much though as the under-

the-hood mechanics of both projects did not have to match.

Setting up user authentication in JavaEE turned out to be an even bigger problem than a mere DBMS change. Glassfish realms was a nightmare to configure, especially concerning what specifically had to be added to the domain.xml file to get it working. The issue was largely down to a lack of comprehensive documentation. When examining the online documentation for JavaEE it can feel like reading in a language consisting purely of highly abstract conceptual metaphors, with very few concrete examples of how to actually go about achieving any of it within the scope of a project. This is contrary to the documentation in .NET which usually prioritises getting it working for a developer.

In addition to the already hard to understand documentation, Glassfish had been updated since the documents were written which meant that much of the example code that was on offer did not work. User authentication was eventually achieved, largely through trial and error and research outside of the JavaEE documentation. This did unfortunately eat up many hours of man power that could have been spent elsewhere if the documentation had been up to scratch.

4.3 Fitbit and Jawbone

4.3.1 .NET

We used the .NET OAuth library to authenticate user connections to the Fitbit server. We found that there were inconsistencies between the OAuth API implementation of OAuth 2.0 and Fitbits. Specifically when attempting to refresh tokens which the server consistently rejected. In an attempt to get it to work we wrote HTTP requests manually using the .NET HTTP libraries, building up the header and body ourselves as opposed to outsourcing that work to the OAuth API. Using this method we successfully got Fitbit refresh tokens accepted.

Jawbone had its own challenges. Although the OAuth API did work with Jawbone the documentation was extremely sparse and what documentation did exist was largely for OAuth 1.0. This caused time to be lost trying to figure out what information was required and what was relevant specifically for OAuth 2.0.

One observation about the two applications was that the OAuth API successfully sent Jawbone refresh tokens, this suggests that it was Fitbits refresh token implementation that was unordinary, not the API.

4.3.2 JavaEE

We used the OAuth Java (standard) library to try to authenticate with the two servers. For Jawbone this was much the same as with .NET. However, we could not authenticate with Fitbit.

When authenticating Fitbit requires an authentication field within the HTTP header. The value of this field is the word Basic followed by the client ID and the client secret ID, separated with a colon and then encoded as a Base64 string. An example follows.

Authorization: Basic Y2xpZW50X2lkOmNsaWVudCBzZWNyZXQ=

The OAuth Java API couldn't authenticate with the Fitbit server (unlike the .NET API) and when we tried to manually create the header by creating the string ourselves we still couldn't get it authorized. The example above is the example Fitbit use on their website to allow developers to check they are using the correct encoding. We managed to reproduce that encoded string exactly, this proved that we were encoding the authentication header correctly, yet Fitbit still rejected all of our attempts with manual HTTP authentication in Java and .NET.

We finally decided that trying to get this to work was costing us too much of the little time we had so we were forced to abandon Fitbit in Java.

4.4 Scheduling

It was decided that we would be able to schedule jobs dynamically from the web interface. To be able to create scheduled jobs that could run on a user specified date and be either one time or recurring depending on their needs we used a scheduler service.

4.4.1 JavaEE

In JavaEE we also had the option to use scheduled beans but we felt these were too restrictive for the project's needs so we used the more advanced scheduling utility: `ExecutorService`, a class from the `Java.Util.Concurrent` package. The `ExecutorService` could take runnable `Job` objects and execute them at a given date, once or recurring.

In hindsight not using scheduled beans was likely an unwise decision as setting the service up was a lot of work, time could have been saved using the simpler scheduled beans. However, we were preparing for when we would want to use the scheduler to send out emails where this flexibility would be required. Unfortunately we did not end up implementing emails which meant

that the added flexibility ended up being a nice but unnecessary feature that required a lot of work. .NET does not have a scheduler in its standard libraries so we were going to have to use a scheduler service for that application anyway, so it did at least allow the two programs to be better mirrors of each other.

An issue occurred setting up the Jawbone jobs with the scheduler. Much of the business code had been added to the WAR project. It was easier to add it here as the code could sit close to the controller classes which meant easy access, without having to worrying too much about calling EJB beans from outside the WAR. Unfortunately we found out why this is bad practice when trying to schedule jobs.

The Scheduler was implemented in the EJB project and whilst the WAR project had access to the EJB, the reverse was not true. This meant that the scheduler could not call business code relating to Jawbone and Fitbit as this code resided in the WAR project. It caused a lot of wasted time refactoring this code so that the business logic resided in the EJB project, allowing the scheduler to access it. If we had added our business logic to the EJB project initially time would have been saved.

4.4.2 .NET

For .NET we had to look externally for an API that could handle this functionality for us. The two main competitors were the Quartz[16] and Hangfire[11] APIs and due to the extensive documentation Hangfire was chosen. Using Hangfire ended up causing some issues. It required a number of database tables, it was decided that we would use a separate database to store the Hangfire tables, in an attempt to minimise migration issues. The Entity Framework was used to create the Hangfire database automatically when the application was deployed if the database did not exist. Unfortunately if the database was deleted Visual Studio maintained a reference to it. It therefore believed the database did exist, didnt create it and then fell over when it tried to access the Hangfire database. This could be solved by deleting the database server instance from the Visual Studio Server Objects Explorer menu but caused some hassle when team members first deleted the database expecting it to be automatically recreated.

The other issue with Hangfire was that it expected all jobs to be idempotent. Whilst we assumed the Hangfire scheduler would run a job once at the given time, it would instead run it at the given time and then continually try to run it again every minute to make sure that the schedule had definitely run. This caused a lot of confusion when developing with Hangfire as we could not work out at first why our jobs were being executed so many times.

4.5 SOAP API

Implementing the SOAP API didnt cause too many issues. The web services could be scaffolded in both systems and then used like standard methods. Clients were created for both application web services and some basic authentication was added so that anonymous clients couldnt add data on behalf of the GoAber users.

Users could create an authentication token on the website, this would be stored against them in the database. When calling the SOAP API the authentication token would be required in the header. The database would then validate the token and find the user who owns that token. Standard users could add data only for themselves. Admin users could add data for any user.

4.6 Challenges

Implementing the cross-system side of challenges was tough. We first created a web service in .NET that could receive a challenge and result request. Then copied the .NET project to another location, opened and ran it. The primary .NET project could then import its own WSDL web service and we could write a client that could communicate with itself. The .NET project could then be run on two separate ports and the applications could send challenges to each other.

Challenges were added as a scheduled job, when the job completed a result request was sent to the other participating community server with details about how that host community had done in the challenge. The other community would receive the request, add the results data to its own database and send back its own results. Both communities now had each others results. Which could be displayed on their respective sites.

We created the JavaEE challenges web service by importing the WSDL from .NET. This meant that both systems used exactly the same WSDL file which made implementing the cross system challenges between .NET and JavaEE easier. The functionality of .NET was then mirrored in JavaEE by using the previously implemented scheduler service and copying/converting the code used in the .NET project for the web service and client to JavaEE.

The communities could now communicate challenges with each other. However, information about each clients domains had to be pre-added to each database. To allow communities to add each other dynamically an extra web service method was added which could except details about a community, generate a unique ID for that community and add it to the database. The

unique ID would then be sent back and challenges would be authorized using that ID. One community could now add another and both would be able to communicate with each other without having to add information about each community on both sides. A form to manage this was added in the community section of the website.

One issue we did have was that when Java was cleaned and built it would not add a reference to the challenges WSDL file to its WAR build files. When run, Glassfish would complain that it couldn't find the WSDL until it was manually added by one of the developers. This was not a serious issue but was quite frustrating.

Another issue was that that information we wished to send across the servers was model data. I.e. we wanted to send a challenge model instance from one server to another. Due to the persistent nature of the model classes, specifically the `ICollection` foreign key type that most models implemented, the model classes themselves could not be sent via SOAP. Instead data transfer objects (DTOs) had to be created for each model class we wanted to send. This was time consuming as code had to be written on each side to convert the models to DTOs and then turn them back.

Whilst setting cross-system challenges up was very fiddly we didn't have that many serious issues and after much testing we successfully implemented cross-system challenges.

4.7 User Interface

The standard JavaEE JSF web pages are scaffolded with a very basic CSS, unlike .NET. To make them look similar, we took the css scaffolded with .NET and applied it to our JavaEE project.

As we wanted to show Activity Data in a graph format for users we found a library to achieve this called D3.js[4]. D3.js required an AJAX request that returned JSON detailing what it was required to display. For .NET, this was easy to set up as controllers could be changed to output JSON data as opposed to an HTML view. In JavaEE, this was a lot harder as a controller class cannot return JSON. We managed to implement this functionality in JavaEE using the JAX RS[17] library, with it we created a second servlet which purely handled AJAX JSON requests via rest-service classes.

To try to further improve the look of the JavaEE web pages, we used a library named PrimeFaces. PrimeFaces improved the look of form UI components. One issue that we did find with PrimeFaces was that date filtering did not work out of the box. We wanted activity data to be able to be filtered by the creation date of the data and it took some wrestling with

PrimeFaces to get this working. The problem was largely down to a lack of decent documentation. A trend we found with many of the technologies we used.

4.8 Internationalization

There were very few problems with implementing internationalization on either application. JavaEE implemented this functionality almost automatically. With a small change to our faces-config.xml file we had it working. This was an element was really liked about JavaEE, when scaffolding classes, strings were automatically added to a bundle class. We could then replicate these strings over to the Welsh version of the bundle.

On the other hand, .NET did not implement internationalization automatically. Neither did it add the strings to any bundle-like class. A resources project was created, resource files were added containing the strings for the English and Welsh versions. We then had to manually go through the site and replace hard-coded strings with their resource file versions. Lastly, by following an online tutorial[1] we added a controller super class which changed the language for a user using a cookie.

Although more work was required for .NET it still wasn't particularly technically challenging. Although, replacing all strings was very time consuming and required continual work throughout the project.

4.9 General Issues

Throughout the project we experienced some issues not specific to any one feature.

JavaEE had a habit of caching data. This caused issues, especially when testing newly implemented features. We would try to add data, the data then would not appear in the user interface until we refreshed the page several times or logged out and back in. We managed to turn caching off in the JavaEE project files and then switch it off manually per Java bean.

Debugging the projects was very slow, especially in JavaEE. The systems took a long time to fire up and sometimes a developer could run them, see a bug, fix the bug, re-run the application, notice either another bug or the same bug still not fixed and have to continually repeat the process. This added huge amounts of time when developing the project.

Glassfish was extremely temperamental. It did not seem to build the project properly when we ran it. Often errors would occur during deployment

but by cleaning and rebuilding the project they would be magically fixed. Glassfish also does not display error messages well, it outputs stack traces to the console but they are usually hard to read and figure out. On the other hand, .NET outputs errors in a clearer format. If certain exceptions are thrown, it will automatically stop the project and put the developer into debug mode. Lastly, it will usually show hints if an error appears when trying to load a page. For instance, when the database uses an old migration, .NET informs the developer that they may need to upgrade to a newer version of the database. This saves a lot of time.

Chapter 5

Testing

During this project many different testing methods were performed. This section will discuss the testing that has been carried out during the different stages of the project.

5.1 Unit Testing

5.1.1 JavaEE

While developing we placed all back-end code within service classes. This would allow unit tests to be performed. However in some cases the use of mock class would also be required to mock the classes accessing the database.

In order to mock the behaviour of the facade classes Mockito[7] has been used. All facade methods which the class under test calls are mocked.

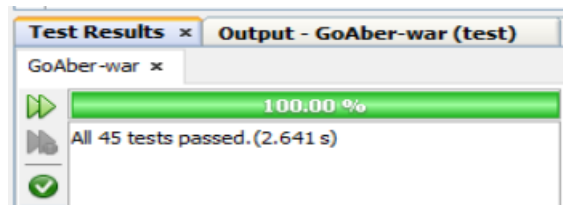


Figure 5.1: JavaEE unit tests.

5.1.2 .NET

This initial plan was to perform unit testing in the same manor as JavaEE. Unfortunately, the .NET service class are not as easily testable. Nearly all of the code in these service classes contain SQL. When running the unit tests the database is inaccessible, therefore only code that does not access the database can be tested.

To get around the database access issues we considered using of Moq [3]. However, this would cause considerable change to the code as interfaces would be required for all classes being mocked.

Using unit testing the controllers was also considered, but again mocking classes would have to be used to stop these from accessing database code. As cucumber testing was already being used, little would be gain by adding controller tests. The cucumber tests would allow the checkout that the correct views and database is presented to the user.

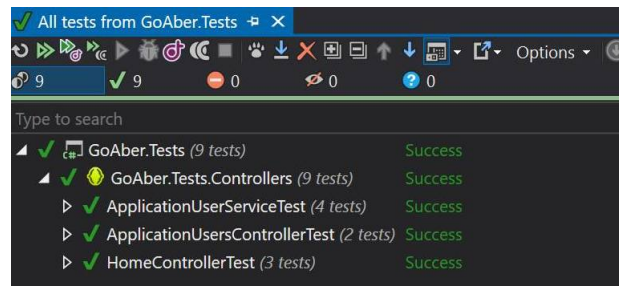


Figure 5.2: .NET unit tests

5.2 Continuous Integration

5.2.1 Automated Continuous Integration

.NET

Visual Studio Online allows continuous integration to be performed automatically. This allowed us to test that our project builds correct after a developer has integrated their work with the main development branch.

Due to a the limited time of build time available, during the first 4 sprints the automatic build was only triggered when a merge to master occurred. This merge happened at the end of every sprint. During the latter stages of the project the automatic build was set to the “develop” branch. This allowed us to discover bugs more quickly as the final parts of the project came together.

As shown in figure 5.3 some builds failed. When a build failed an email was automatically sent out to all developers. This allowed the bug to be quickly resolved and the build to be re-ran.

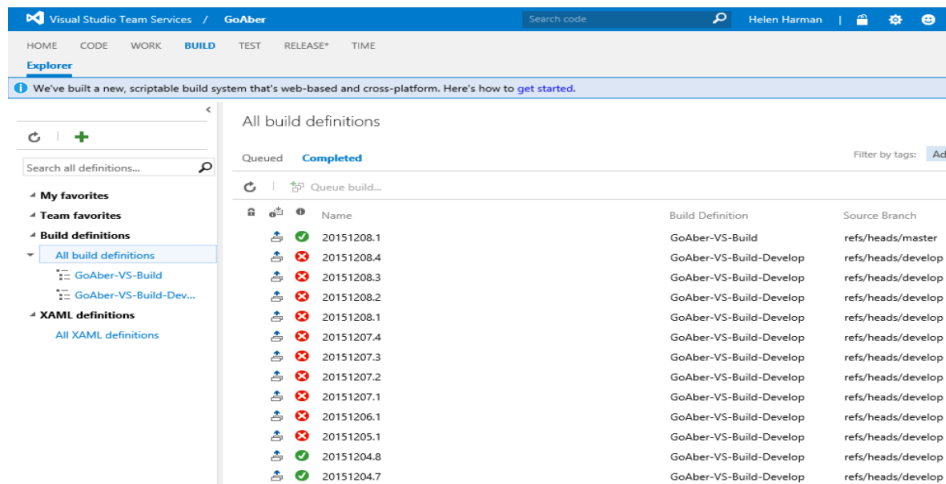


Figure 5.3: Selection of builds that have been run during the project.

The summary information on the build (figure 5.4) allowed us to view how long the build took and if there are any issues. For example warnings about unused variables.

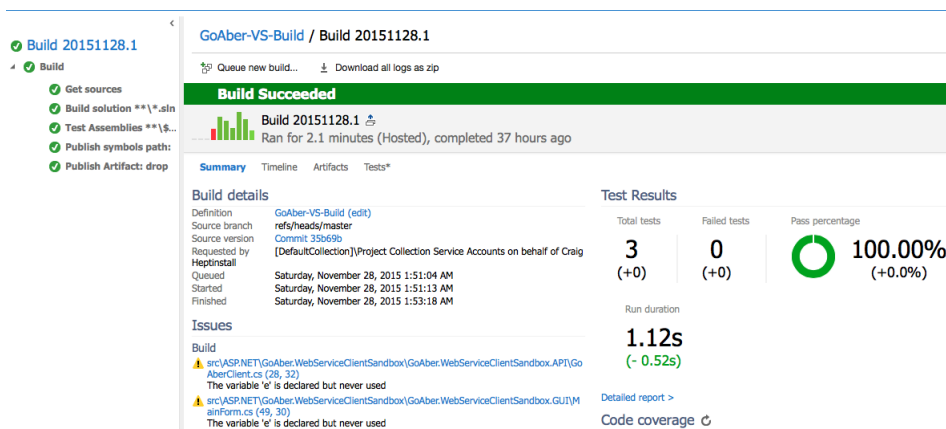


Figure 5.4: Example of a build that has been performed.

JavaEE

Consideration was given to changing the JavaEE project into a Maven project. This would allow Visual Studio Online to build the project. However, it was not discovered until a considerable amount of work had gone into the project that Visual Studio Online used Maven. A decision was made that changing

to Maven at this stage would take too much time away from development, and the manual integration testing was providing a sufficient method of integration testing.

5.2.2 Manual Integration Testing

Throughout the first 4 sprints of the project no developer was allowed to push to the develop branch unless two other group members had tested and reviewed their code. This was enforced using Visual Studio Online. Due to the number of these pull request being made, this changed to one developer in order to speed up the process.

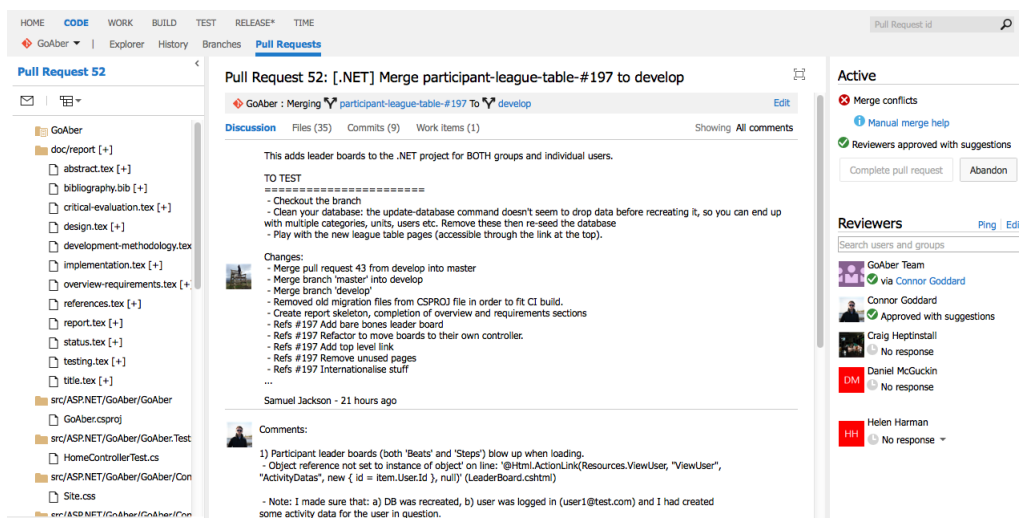


Figure 5.5: Example of a pull request

For a pull request to be approved the project must build and the tasks stated by the creator should work as stated within the request. Within each pull request steps on how to test the functionality have been provided. An example of this is shown in figure 5.5.

As well as checking the functionality the reviewer also performed a small code review. This would encourage the use of clean commented code, which follows the MVC design pattern.

As well as finding many bugs, this also allowed multiple members of the group to learn about how a requirement of the system had been implemented.

5.3 User Interface Testing

To test the user interface SpecFlow [5] was used. SpecFlow allows the creation of behaviour driven test that are written in plain English scenarios contained within feature files. These scenarios (figure 5.6), along with some step definitions (figure 5.7) allow interactions with the user interface to be performed.

```
Feature: Register user
  In order to edit my details
  I should be able to log in
  And should be able to edit details in management

Scenario: Open the system
  Given I navigate to the homepage
  Then I should see "Go Aber"

Scenario: Register User
  Given I navigate to the homepage
  Then I should see "Register"
  Then I click on "Register"
  And I fill in "Email" with "crh13@aber.ac.uk"
  And I fill in "Password" with "Atestpass!0"
  And I fill in "ConfirmPassword" with "Atestpass!0"
  And I fill in "Nickname" with "atestUser"
  And I fill in "DateOfBirth" with "01-01-1993"
  And I press enter inside "DateOfBirth"
  Then I should see "Log off"
```

Figure 5.6: Cucumber test scenarios

```
[Then(@"I should see ""(.*)""")]
public void ThenIShouldSee(string p0)
{
    Assert.IsTrue(driver.PageSource.Contains(p0));
}

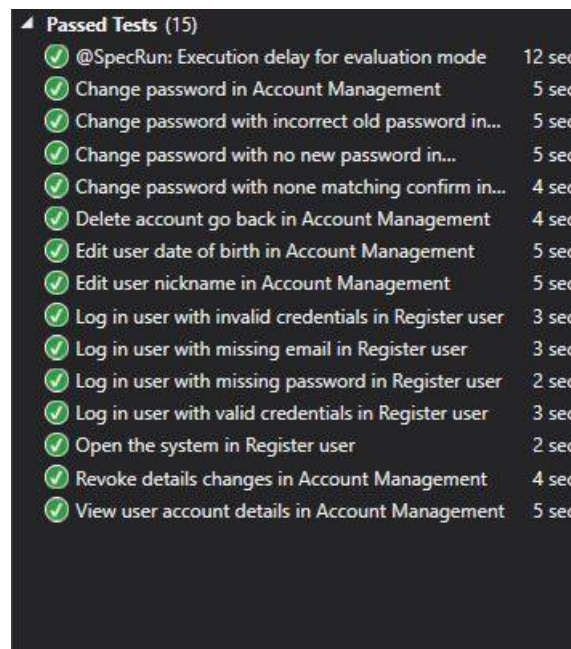
[Then(@"I should not see ""(.*)""")]
public void ThenIShouldNotSee(string p0)
{
    Assert.IsFalse(driver.PageSource.Contains(p0));
}
```

Figure 5.7: Cucumber steps

PhantomJS [12] allowed us to run the tests without opening an internet browser. This will allow the tests to be ran by our continuous integration server. Selenium web driver is used to select and control the web browser.

Tests to check that no invalid data can be entered into the forms are performed. This includes boundary checks, valid type checks and valid format (e.g. email format) checks. The results of the tests are shown in figure 5.8.

The steps (shown in figure 5.7) only have to be written once. These tests interact with the HTML in the web browser, therefore, they do not care about the underlying technologies. By just changing a URL these test can be used for both the JavaEE and .NET projects.



Passed Tests (15)	
✓ @SpecRun: Execution delay for evaluation mode	12 sec
✓ Change password in Account Management	5 sec
✓ Change password with incorrect old password in...	5 sec
✓ Change password with no new password in...	5 sec
✓ Change password with none matching confirm in...	4 sec
✓ Delete account go back in Account Management	4 sec
✓ Edit user date of birth in Account Management	5 sec
✓ Edit user nickname in Account Management	5 sec
✓ Log in user with invalid credentials in Register user	3 sec
✓ Log in user with missing email in Register user	3 sec
✓ Log in user with missing password in Register user	2 sec
✓ Log in user with valid credentials in Register user	3 sec
✓ Open the system in Register user	2 sec
✓ Revoke details changes in Account Management	4 sec
✓ View user account details in Account Management	5 sec

Figure 5.8: Cucumber test results

Using the SpecFlow library has also resulted in the automated creation of testing statistics similar to that of standard cucumber. Shown in figure 5.9 is the result from running tests, where a useful html page has been created. The page shows run time, number of tests in each feature, alongside descriptions of each of the tests, and reasons for any failures. As the figure shows, no tests failed at the stage of completion of testing. Where failures were found during the testing process, fixes were completed to the application.

Result: all tests passed

Success rate	Tests	Succeeded	Failed	Pending	Ignored	Skipped
100% 	29	29	0	0	0	0

Test Timeline Summary



Test Result View



Feature Summary



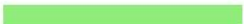


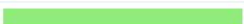
Feature	Success rate	Tests	Succeeded	Failed	Pending	Ignored	Skipped
Account Management	100% 	10	10	0	0	0	0
Manage Activity Data	100% 	2	2	0	0	0	0
Manage communities	100% 	3	3	0	0	0	0
Manage teams	100% 	3	3	0	0	0	0
Manage users	100% 	4	4	0	0	0	0
Register user	100% 	7	7	0	0	0	0

Figure 5.9: Cucumber test results, generated inside HTML pages

5.4 SOAP Communication

To test that 3rd-party applications can send our application activity data a second application was created. This second application just sends activity data to our main application.

5.4.1 .NET

For .NET a GUI application was created to allow the entry of an authorisation token (Shown in figure 5.10). This token is sent to the main application along with the activity data. The main application will check the validity of the token before saving the activity data to the database. The activity data will be associated with the user that is currently logged into the application.



Figure 5.10: The .NET SOAP client application.

Unit tests have also been added to the project to test that the data can be sent and the valid return value is received. (Shown in figure 5.11.)

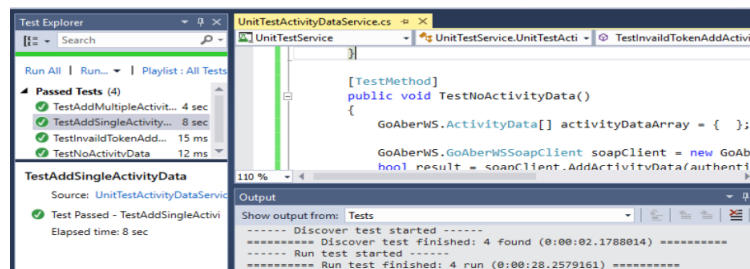


Figure 5.11: Unit tests for the SOAP operations in the .NET project.

5.4.2 JavaEE

The JavaEE SOAP test is a command line application which, like the .NET application, allows the user to enter an authorisation token. When running this application the user does not need to be logged in. Which users account to added the activity data too is specified in the request. Unit tests have also been added to this project.

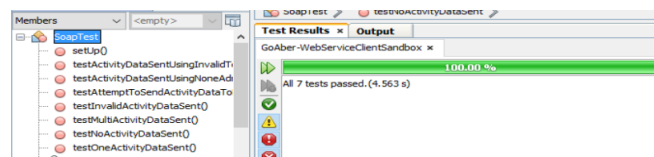


Figure 5.12: Unit tests for the SOAP operations in the JavaEE project.

5.5 Cross Browser Compatibility

Throughout the project the applications were tested on multiple browsers this includes Chrome, Safari, Internet Explore 11, Edge and Opera. Both application should work on all modern browsers.

5.6 Community Communication

To test that a community could send a challenge to a different community, we ran instances of the JavaEE and .NET projects on different computers. These tests involved checking that both instances could send and receive challenges, and that the community which started the challenge sent the results to all other communities.

Chapter 6

Project Status

During the project, meetings with the client took place to discuss which features would be given a low priority in the backlog. This section will discuss features that remain on the backlog, and the reasons for this.

6.1 Incomplete Features

6.1.1 Administrator setup of Categories (D-FR2)

The functional requirement D-FR2 states that “The system will provide a mechanism, for an administrator to setup the categories of data that can be stored for a community”. This functionality has not been provided. Users can store any category of data, and community league tables are available for all categories.

6.1.2 Fitbit (D-FR3)

Due to technical difficulties the JavaEE system is unable to obtain data from Fitbit. For authorisation to devices we use a library called scribe [19]. Unfortunately, this library is unable to retrieve the access tokens from Fitbit. After manual attempts to put together the authorisation header, an agreement with the client was reached, that this feature would be put at the bottom of the backlog. Jawbone communication, manual entry and SOAP have been implemented to allow activity data to be entered into the JavaEE system.

6.1.3 Email notifications (E-FR3, E-FR4 and C-FR4)

As agreed with the client, email notifications were given a lower priority on the backlog. Due to time constraints this feature was unable to be implemented. The means that users do not get notified when a challenge has been completed, and do not receive reminds when they are inactive.

6.1.4 Authentication and authorisation (D-FR11)

The requirements state that Single Sign On (SSO) will be used. Our initial plan was to start with having our own vanilla login systems and add SSO at a later stage. However, SSO has remained unimplemented due to time constraints.

6.1.5 Individual Progress (E-FR4)

It was requested that a total distance in miles/kilometres would be provided. This has not been included in the final product, again due to time pressure to deliver the project, but is a feature that could easily be added in future development.

Chapter 7

Critical Evaluation

We found that there are many differences between JavaEE and .NET. Throughout the project many things have gone well while developing the two applications, and there are many things we would have done differently. In this chapter we will evaluate these.

7.1 Platform Comparison

7.1.1 Implementation

JavaEE splits the code into two projects : the WAR containing the web pages; and the EJB which should contain everything else. This allows the UI to be clearly separated from the rest of the code. Within .NET all code is contained within a single project, which can lead to parts of the view being intertwined with the controllers and models.

Despite everyone having previous experience in using Java, and only a few having previous C# experience, we felt that the learning curve for JavaEE was greater than that of .NET. The .NET MVC framework hides a lot of the complexities from the user. JavaEE is more flexible, which leads to more complications. Therefore a lot more time was spent on the JavaEE project than the .NET project.

An example of this is the implementation for the user's activity data pages. The AJAX used to display these graphs requires a JSON representation of the activity data. In .NET this done through requesting the model as JSON object. In JavaEE a model cannot be converted into JSON, this meant adding an extra class that convert the ActivityData object into a ActivityDataDTO object which could then be converted to JSON.

The JavaEE application kept caching data. After entering data via the forms, the data displayed in the view pages would not contain the update; until the page was refreshed. An annotation was added to the class to prevent it from being cached. This problem was not experienced when developing the .NET application.

Implementing the Jawbone and Fitbit connection using OAuth was more successful in the .NET than in JavaEE. The library used for OAuth in .NET was a lot more stable and documented than the libraries used for JavaEE. The OAuth version for both devices has also been recently updated, which meant that was very few examples.

In JavaEE there are many options for the scheduling of jobs, whereas in .NET Hangfire appears to be the only option. Having multiple options allowed us to pick the scheduling method which suited our situation.

Often after pulling changes into our local copy of the git repository the JavaEE project would not run. Even when no changes to the database had been performed, this would require the re-creation of the database. However, before recreating the database we needed to make sure no users are logged into the application, as those users would no longer exist in the database.

7.1.2 Internationalisation

Bundles were automatically generated in JavaEE to allow the internationalisation of the application. Other than adding these to a configuration file no extra work was required.

In comparison to JavaEE the .NET application's internationalisation was more difficult to setup. This involved creating a controller which grabbed the user's language from a cookie. All other controllers inherit from this controller.

7.1.3 Database

JavaEE's named queries versus .NET's LINQ library had mixed opinions within the group. Some like the abstracted view of SQL that LINQ provides. However, this leads to the SQL being found within views, models and controllers. The named queries allow the SQL to be kept separate from the code, and are closer to standard SQL syntax. Some members of the group found this less intuitive than LINQ.

When an update to the database was required the .NET project's models were changed and the "add-migration" command was ran. We found it a lot more difficult to update the JavaEE project's database. These changes were performed through editing the database and then updating the code. This often required manual modifications to the code. Using the code-first entity framework in .NET, worked more smoothly.

7.1.4 Configuration

A positive point for using glassfish was that a script could be produced to automatically setup realms for user authentication. Configuring the project to allow authentication is done on the server, which extracts the configurations from the code. In .NET the authentication is within the project itself. Though it was easier to configure the .NET authentication, we found the JavaEE means of separating this out is cleaner.

.NET has a vast amount of libraries available that are installable by the NuGet package manager. This allows aspects like selecting which OAuth library to make use of a lot simpler. When looking for a JavaEE OAuth library many different developers had different recommendations, and it was unclear to which would be the best one to use.

7.1.5 Testing

When testing the projects, we made use of mocking libraries to mock the database interactions. In JavaEE, this can be done through just mocking the facade the class being tested is accessing. Only the functions that it is calling need to be mocked.

In .NET not only does the whole model class which the class under test is using have to be mocked, so do all models accessed via its foreign key constraints. This meant that even if we wanted to unit test a small section of the software the majority of the models would have to be mocked. The class under test also had to be modified so that the mock class could be passed to it.

To allow 3rd party application to send our application data a web service which enabled communication via SOAP was created. To test this a separate application in each language was created and the service was imported into the application. In .NET, this service could be updated through a right-click menu option. This was more awkward to update in JavaEE, where the web service had to be deleted and re-imported.

7.1.6 Conclusion

We found that JavaEE was far more flexible in what it allows us to do, but took longer to develop. With added flexibility came added complexity. Whereas .NET does everything it can for you and forces you stick to a common way of implementing.

7.2 Development Methodology

At the start of the project we struggled to get going. None of us had any previous experience of how to perform the initial setup of a project. For example we had to work out how long the sprints should be, and which tasks to assign each sprint. We decided to allow two for the first sprint and one week for all other sprints. This turned out to work well.

During the first sprint, according to the burndown, we became about 30 hours behind schedule. This slowly improved as the project progressed. As we became used to the technologies our development started to speed up and our predictions for the length of time tasks would take became more accurate. We also planned for delays and had included a empty sprint. This sprint was used to test, document, tidy up the project and complete outstanding tasks.

7.2.1 Design

We all agreed that we should have done some design at the start of each sprint. At the start of the sprint we handed out the tasks, and implemented them individually with little group discussion. The design discussions would have allowed those with previous experience in the technology to give ideas and advise on the best practices. It would have also given everyone a clearer idea of what everyone else was doing.

However, due to the lack of experience within the group this would not have been possible for all tasks. Many of the tasks involved researching about the technologies. In these cases it would have been useful to provide feedback for the design decisions that had been made as a group.

We also wanted to strike the balance between too much design and too little design. Having additional design meetings would have taken away from the time spent implementing the applications.

7.2.2 Setup

At the start of the project, we were not aware that Visual Studio Online would require our JavaEE project to be buildable using Maven. We should have looked into continuous integration testing at the start of the project. To change part way through the project would have required us to create a new Maven project and then copy across the source files.

We kept on getting git conflicts due to configuration files, especially within the JavaEE project. These files are needed so that the correct dependencies and files can be loaded into the project, however these caused merge conflicts throughout the project. We also had merge conflicts in the .NET project's

database migration files. These were added to the git ignore, but due to them still being referenced with the .csproj file, caused the build to constantly fail.

7.2.3 Implementation

Three out of the five developers used Apple Macs to develop on, however Visual Studio will not run on OS X. This meant working from virtual machines. Due to hardware capabilities these were given low amounts of RAM. When MS windows detects that it is low on memory it starts to close programs. This caused development to take longer than it should have.

Through the majority of the project two developers were required to check through the work that had been performed before it could be pushed to the develop branch. This was a good way of working and many bugs were found through doing this. It also made sure that two other developers knew what features had been implemented.

However, having two people test every feature slowed down the development process as it took awhile to get these approved. This delayed dependent features from getting started. For the last two weeks this was changed to one developer to speed up this process.

Little commenting of the code was performed, and the coding standards were not discussed at the start of the project. We tried to stick to a commonly used coding standard for the languages. However, switching between methods starting with uppercase letters in .NET, and lowercase letters in JavaEE, often caused standards to merge.

7.2.4 Agile Practices

During the project some pair programming was performed. This was a good way of solving bugs and overcoming technical challenges. With more time it would have been good to fit in more pair programming. This would help standardise the coding style and allow multiple developers to learn about aspects of the system.

We planned to perform code reviews and perform static code analysis. In the initial meeting about development methodology we planned to have a few group code reviews to check that everyone is following the same coding standards; then code reviews would be performed in smaller groups throughout the project. Unfortunately due to time constraints, this did not happen.

At the end of every sprint we performed retrospectives, giving us the opportunity to review the work done for a sprint. This also gave the group a specific date to complete tasks by. Rather than reviewing work this meeting

was often used to complete pull requests and perform the merge to the master branch.

Unit testing was not started until a few weeks before the deadline. It would have been useful to having looked into unit testing at the start of the project, and setup the tools required to do this. Unit tests have been added to the JavaEE project, however the .NET project has very poor unit test coverage.

7.2.5 Development Tools

Communication was primarily done via Facebook. This was a good way of arrange meetings and sharing setup instructions. However, we believe that the project would have ran more smoothly if we all worked in the same office and had the same working hours. This would have allowed questions about the code others have written to be answer straight away, and ideas to be shared more easily.

Making use of Visual Studio Online allowed us to easily track the progress of the project. Each week we reviewed the burndown graph to see how far behind schedule we were. We could then plan the following weeks working taking into consideration what tasks were carrying over into the new sprint.

Due to the limited amount of users allowed to contribute to a Visual Studio Online we also made use of GitHub to allow our customer and project manger to view the code being produced. Our local versions of the repositories were then setup to push to both remote repositories. This was useful because when Visual Studio Online was down we could use GitHub and vise-versa.

Everyone made good use of version control allowing us to keep track of changes. New branches were created for every feature. This allowed the braking up of the development. When a develop was waiting for a feature to be reviewed they could get started on a new feature using a different branch. Though we had some git issues through lack of experience, overall this worked well.

7.2.6 Conclusion

Throughout the project all developers worked hard to get the two programs working. We stuck to the development methodology throughout the project, and by the end the process had become much smoother at following it. Though not all features were completed, we have been able to deliver a comprehensive product on time.

References

- [1] Nadeem Afana. Mvc i18n tutorial. <http://afana.me/post/aspnet-mvc-internationalization.aspx>, 2015. [Online; accessed 20-October-2015].
- [2] Ed Blankenship. Visual Studio 2013 : Introducing Visual Studio Online. <https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/magazine/dn519923.aspx>, January 2014.
- [3] Daniel Cazzulino. Moq. <https://github.com/Moq/moq4>, 2015. [Online; accessed 01-December-2015].
- [4] D3.js. D3.js. <http://d3js.org/>, 2015. [Online; accessed 20-October-2015].
- [5] SpecFlow developers. Specflow. <http://specflow.org>, 2015. [Online; accessed 01-December-2015].
- [6] Vincent Driessen. A successful Git branching model. <http://nvie.com/posts/a-successful-git-branching-model/>, January 2010.
- [7] Szczepan Faber. Mockito. <http://mockito.org>, 2015. [Online; accessed 01-December-2015].
- [8] Fitbit. Developer api. <http://dev.fitbit.com/uk/>, 2015. [Online; accessed 20-October-2015].
- [9] Martin Fowler. Is Design Dead? <http://martinfowler.com/articles/designDead.html>, May 2004.
- [10] Github. Github. <https://github.com/>, 2015. [Online; accessed 20-October-2015].
- [11] Hangfire. Hangfire.io api. <http://hangfire.io/>, 2015. [Online; accessed 09-November-2015].
- [12] Ariya Hidayat. Phantomjs. <http://phantomjs.org>, 2015. [Online; accessed 01-December-2015].

- [13] Jawbone. Jawbone up api. <http://jawbone.com/up/developer>, 2015. [Online; accessed 20-October-2015].
- [14] Nigel Hardy Neil Taylor. Golaber requirements specification. *SEM5640 Group Project*, 2015.
- [15] BBC News. NHS IT system one of 'worst fiascos ever', say MPs. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-24130684>, September 2013.
- [16] Quartz. Quartz job scheduler. <http://www.quartz-scheduler.org/>, 2015. [Online; accessed 09-November-2015].
- [17] JAX RS. Jax rs. <https://jax-rs-spec.java.net/>, 2015. [Online; accessed 20-October-2015].
- [18] Ken Schwaber and Jeff Sutherland. The Scrum Guide, 2001.
- [19] scribejava. Scribejava. <https://github.com/scribejava/scribejava>, 2015. [Online; accessed 10-November-2015].
- [20] Twitter. Get bootstrap. <http://getbootstrap.com/>, year = 2015, note = [Online; accessed 21-October-2015].