

FIT3161: Advanced Computer Science Project 1

Reflection Entry 2

Chan Wai Han – 31555373

Project Supervisor: Dr. Soon Lay Ki

Contents

1	Week 6	4
1.1	Tasks Undertaken	4
1.2	Critical Reflections	4
1.3	Assigned Roles/Tasks	4
1.4	Accomplishments	4
1.5	Next Weeks Tasks/Reflections	4
2	Week 7	5
2.1	Tasks Undertaken	5
2.2	Critical Reflections	5
2.3	Assigned Roles/Tasks	5
2.4	Accomplishments	5
2.5	Next Weeks Tasks/Reflections	5
3	Week 8	6
3.1	Tasks Undertaken	6
3.2	Critical Reflections	6
3.3	Assigned Roles/Tasks	6
3.4	Accomplishments	6
3.5	Next Weeks Tasks/Reflections	6
4	Week 9	7
4.1	Tasks Undertaken	7
4.2	Critical Reflections	7
4.3	Assigned Roles/Tasks	7
4.4	Accomplishments	7
4.5	Next Weeks Tasks/Reflections	7
5	Week 10	8
5.1	Tasks Undertaken	8
5.2	Critical Reflections	8
5.3	Assigned Roles/Tasks	8
5.4	Accomplishments	8
5.5	Next Weeks Tasks/Reflections	8
6	Week 11	9
6.1	Tasks Undertaken	9

6.2 Critical Reflections..... 9

6.3 Assigned Roles/Tasks 9

6.4 Accomplishments 9

6.5 Next Weeks Tasks/Reflections 9

1 Week 6

1.1 Tasks Undertaken

For activity 1, our group discussed about creating a risk register for our project. We were assigned the task of identifying 6 potential risks, which was then inserted into the risk register template that was provided on Moodle. The probability of each risk was assigned a numeric value, and its impact on meeting the main project objectives was assigned. The scale was between 1 to 10. Subsequently, we discussed about the response strategies for the risks identified.

For activity 2, our project team played the planning poker game. The planning poker game is used to estimate the level of effort needed to finish a development task.

The remaining time of the workshop was used for a team meet-up and clarification of assessment tasks. This was where each team member updated each other of our progress, as well as to clarify assignment queries. Yi Sen then set a deadline for our tasks so that we could complete our assessment tasks on time.

1.2 Critical Reflections

During the workshop, I managed to learn about the importance of identifying risks for a project early on. This would ensure that our project can be carried out smoothly, as we have already identified the importance of the risks, as well as ways to mitigate those risks. Besides that, I learnt about the importance of planning poker. Not only does it foster collaboration by engaging the entire team, it is able to create consensus estimate rather than having a single person driving the estimate. This allows all the team members to be on the same page in terms of the tasks at hand. Furthermore, it helps to expose issues early through the discussion of each requirement. From this week's workshop, I learnt about the importance of these stages in the early development of a project. I used to neglect these things, as I thought that it was a waste of time. But through this week's workshop, I believe that I have understood its importance in ensuring a smooth project development. Essentially, I learnt that the early stages of a project should not be neglected or taken lightly, as good planning will ensure a good product.

1.3 Assigned Roles/Tasks

The tasks were done as a group activity. Therefore, we did activity 1 together when discussing about the risks. For activity 2, Yi Sen was nominated as Scrum Master as he had prior knowledge from a previous unit called FIT2101.

1.4 Accomplishments

From this workshop's activities, I can now make a risk register for a team project. Besides that, I have learnt how to play the Planning Poker game. Furthermore, I learnt about the importance of the activities done in the early stages of a project.

Besides that, I completed quiz 4 later in the week. It was simple as I had studied the lecture materials beforehand.

1.5 Next Weeks Tasks/Reflections

To complete the risk register that was done in the workshop. We did not fully complete the risk register in the workshop, so we have to finalize it, as it would be used for our project anyways. Besides that, I have to study the lecture materials about risks in a project to get a better understanding of the topic.

2 Week 7

2.1 Tasks Undertaken

For this week's workshop activity, we were put into our teams to start working on our project. Firstly, we identified the various artefacts, people and resources that will be involved in our project execution, and relationships between them. Besides that, we started to identify processes that will be carried out by the software. Essentially, we identified things that we needed to research so that they could be discussed with our project supervisor. The first thing that we identified were artefacts, which may be objects and classes. We identified what they were, how we could describe them, their attributes, how we could represent them, as well as how we could group them. Next, we identified people, if they were individuals, groups, or specific roles. We had to identify what we needed to know about them, as well as how we would represent them. Next, we identified the resources that were needed. We identified how we could describe them, what their attributes were, as well as how we could represent them. Furthermore, we identified the relationships in our project. We thought about how we could represent them and how we could group them in some way. Finally, we identified the processes that were to be used in our project. We identified them in a high level for now as we were still a bit confused about our project. We also thought about how we could represent them, as well as how we could group the relationships in some way. This workshop activity helped lead us into our design assignment.

2.2 Critical Reflections

During the workshop activity, I had mixed up a lot of the materials in our project, as it was very confusing to me. This was probably due to the fact that I had not thoroughly looked through our project specifications, as well as the articles and source codes that were related to it. From this experience, I learnt that whenever taking on a project or even just a task, I should ensure that I perform sufficient research beforehand, as it would help me understand the thing that I am working on better, which would consequently smoothen out my experience when completing tasks related to the project.

2.3 Assigned Roles/Tasks

There were a few things to identify in this week's workshop. I was assigned to identifying people. At first, I was confused as identified our team member and our roles. However upon clarification, I realized that I was supposed to identify the people that our software product would be involved with, which was our target end user.

2.4 Accomplishments

From this workshop, I learnt about the different type of things that have to be identified at the start of the project, which are artefacts, people, resources, relationships, and processes. I learnt that these things that are identified do not have to be specific as we just require a rough idea of what we will be working with. Besides that, from attending this week's lecture, I learnt about software requirements as well as the difference between scope and requirement. It helped to clear up my confusion on this topic.

2.5 Next Weeks Tasks/Reflections

I will study the lecture materials again as the material was quite heavy. Besides that, I will try to identify the things that we need to research on at a much deeper level, as I feel like our current identifications are only at surface level.

3 Week 8

3.1 Tasks Undertaken

This week's workshop activity required us to get in our teams to discuss and work on the design assignment. We chose a representation form and started to create the corresponding for our project. Besides that, we discussed about the software tools and platform that we will be using, such as the programming language, database, and libraries. Furthermore, we created a research plan for any additional software resource, as well as a self-learning plan if necessary.

3.2 Critical Reflections

This week's workshop activity was a wakeup call for me. When discussing about the software tools and platform that we will be using, I realized that I was unfamiliar with a lot of the tools and platforms that my team members were suggesting. For example, I was unfamiliar with HTML, CSS, and GitHub. Therefore, I made it a point to myself to create my own self-learning plan, to read up on the things that I was not familiar with. I had to make it my responsibility to independently learn these things so that I can smoothly use these tools and platforms during the development process next semester.

3.3 Assigned Roles/Tasks

As the workshop activity was a group activity, we discussed it together as a group, by brainstorming together and sharing whatever ideas that we had. There were no specific roles delegated individually.

3.4 Accomplishments

From this week's lecture, I learnt a lot about setting up a development platform and a runtime platform. I learnt about the MVC pattern, a workstation, N-Tier system, raw vs virtual systems, as well as networks and servers. This week's lecture material was heavy and I managed to gain a lot of knowledge about the different topics that it introduced.

From this week's workshop activity, I managed to create my self-learning plan and identify the different software tools and platform that I need to gain knowledge on. I believe that this is a good wake up call for me as the software tools and platform will be pivotal in the development stage in the next semester.

3.5 Next Weeks Tasks/Reflections

I will be going through the lecture material a few times as the material was very heavy. There were a lot of new topics that were introduced and I am excited to understand them. At the same time, we will be finalizing the software tools and platforms that are required for our project. We will also be working on our design assignment.

4 Week 9

4.1 Tasks Undertaken

There were no workshop activities this week. Our team continued to make progress and started to finalize the design assignment.

However, in terms of the design assignment, I researched on the data processing components and data flow of our project. Besides that, I read back my FIT2107 lecture notes as I had to list out the software quality attributes that our software product would be adhering to.

4.2 Critical Reflections

From the task that I was assigned for the design assignment, I learnt about the importance of being independent when doing work. For my task, I had to talk about the data processing components of our project. However, we had never learnt anything about data processing before. Despite not knowing a single thing, I had to independently take initiative to research on the topic and understand it properly, in order to insert the knowledge into the design assignment. Therefore, I learnt that knowledge is limitless. I should always be open to learning something new, especially when completing a task. This will be important in the future, as I will most likely face a similar situation when needing to complete tasks at work.

4.3 Assigned Roles/Tasks

For the design assignment, I was assigned the role of completing the data processing components and data flow of our project, as well as the software quality attributes that our software product would be adhering to.

4.4 Accomplishments

From my design assignment tasks, I got to learn about the data processing components and data flow of a project, which was something completely new to me.

From the lecture materials, I learnt about writing a literature review. I learnt about the purpose of a literature review, ways of demonstrating critical analysis in the literature review, critical reading, and how to structure a literature review. Besides that, I learnt about oral presentations, which would help to prepare me for week 10's progress interview and week 12's presentation.

4.5 Next Weeks Tasks/Reflections

I will be revising the lecture materials again as the literature review part is very important for our Assignment 7 – Project Proposal. Besides that, I will look through the oral presentation guidelines again to prepare me for next week's progress interview and week 12's presentation. Finally, I will complete my tasks for the design assignment.

5 Week 10

5.1 Tasks Undertaken

There were no workshop activities this week.

We attended the progress interview where we presented slides to the lecturers and tutors to evaluate on the progress of our project. They also provided feedback on the things that we had to focus on.

5.2 Critical Reflections

This week was hectic as there were a lot of assignments due at the same time. As a result, we ended up creating our slides last minute. Despite it being acceptable to our supervisor, it was very hectic and it was not a smooth experience. This was all indirectly due to our poor time management from the start as we did not plan ahead. From this direct experience, I learnt about the importance of time management and I will certainly plan ahead for the upcoming weeks. I will also begin doing other units' assignments earlier to prevent clashes as such in the future.

5.3 Assigned Roles/Tasks

There were no lecture materials this week.

For the progress interview, I was assigned to talk about the introduction, project scope, project objective, data processing components, data flow, and the conclusion of our projects. We managed to practice our parts before the actual progress interview day, and thus our presentation was smooth.

5.4 Accomplishments

We managed to complete our slides on time and send them to our project supervisor for feedback. We also managed to make the changes that she requested. We also completed the progress interview smoothly and receive valuable feedback from the lecturer and tutors. We also got to know about what we were lacking in terms of our project documents through the Q&A session, such as our risk register and risk management plan.

5.5 Next Weeks Tasks/Reflections

We will prepare the things missing from our risk register and risk management plan and add them into our project proposal and slides.

6 Week 11

6.1 Tasks Undertaken

There were no workshop activities this week.

Our team will be working on assignment 6 – the slides for our presentation of project plan and assignment 6 – the project proposal with literature review document.

6.2 Critical Reflections

When creating our slides, I realized that our formatting was very messy and inconsistent. Each section's font size, spacing, and position on the slide did not follow each other, due to each member doing their own parts for the slide. I realized that we should duplicate or copy the template slide and just edit from there. Another way to solve this problem would be to set a format beforehand so that everyone can follow that format. Despite containing all the required information in our slides, it was extremely messy visually. I will make sure to set a format with my teammates when creating any slides in the future.

6.3 Assigned Roles/Tasks

There were no lecture materials this week.

For the slides for our presentation, I added the extra things that we needed, such as the risk register and risk management plan. Besides that, I touched up the information for my parts on the slides based on the feedback received by the lecturer and tutors in the progress interview last week.

For the project proposal with literature review document, I was assigned the testing and conclusion section. I also helped Yi Sen to do some sections together, in order to evenly split our jobs.

6.4 Accomplishments

Our team managed to complete most of the slides and most of the project proposal document. We sent the link to our project supervisor and will make the necessary changes based on her feedback.

6.5 Next Weeks Tasks/Reflections

We will be rehearsing our presentation a few times before the actual presentation day. Besides that, we will be finalizing our project proposal document as there are still a few components missing such as the literature review, introduction, conclusion, etc.