FIT3162: Advanced Computer Science Project 2

Reflection Entry 1

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1 Transitioning from S1 (FIT3161) to S2 (FIT3162)

After the first semester ended, I took a few weeks off to take a break from all the stress from studying and doing the final exams. After the much-needed rest, I began to plan for the upcoming new semester. I called the project leader, Yi Sen to arrange a meeting with our project supervisor, Miss Soon to discuss about the things that we can begin working on. However, after attempting to contact her through Slack, we did not receive any reply even when the semester had begun. It turns out that unfortunately, she had issues with Slack and was unable to contact us through that platform. This took a huge toll on our team as we could have begun much earlier. Due to unfortunate circumstances, we are essentially slowed down on our development progress.

Besides that, I was worried about the scheduling and workload for this semester, especially with it being my final semester, and the fact that it consists of three core units. I was afraid that we would have inadequate time to complete the development. Therefore, during the first week, I looked through each subject on Moodle to write down important dates and create a checklist of tasks that needed to be completed for each week. This was to ensure that I do not miss any deadline, and so that I am aware of the upcoming work.

2 Reflection on Progress and Contribution

2.1 Technical Contribution

During the first two weeks of the semester, I contacted Yi Sen to create the version control system and git branches together. We had no idea how to do it and had to look online and ask our friends for help. After a few shortcomings, we were able to successfully create it. After that, Yi Sen assisted the other team members including myself in creating our git branches.

2.2 Contribution on Overall Project Management

After creating our git branches, we had a meeting with Miss Soon and was told to create a more detailed Gantt Chart for our project management. Therefore, together with Yi Sen, we went onto Moodle and the week 1 slides to extract the due dates of each activity throughout the semester. Subsequently, we compiled them chronologically and them put them into the Gantt Chart. However, despite having the due dates, we did not know how long we should allocate for each task. Nevertheless, a meeting with Miss Soon solved that issue.

2.3 Role and Involvement as a Team Member

During the catch-up meeting with Miss Soon in the second week, our team effectively split up into two sub-teams, with me and Yi Sen being the front-end team, and Nawwaf and Yeonsoo being the back-end team. Yi Sen and I then began working on the user interface design. We created a draft on Lucid Chart and showed it to Miss Soon and our team members during the subsequent meeting. After obtaining the green light, Yi Sen and I proceeded to code out the webpage. Yi Sen was tasked to create the QnA page, while I created the repository page. I ran into a few problems when creating the page, with the main one being unfamiliar with HTML and CSS. Thus, I had to spend a few hours on YouTube learning the

basic syntax. Besides that, there was the worry of not having the same theme and design code as Yi Sen. To overcome this problem, I made sure to frequently contact Yi Sen through Discord when coding out the webpage. I made sure to frequently look through Yi Sen's design code to ensure that we were on the same page.

Furthermore, we were allocated with another task, which was to look up on algorithms that were able to extract keywords from the user's input question. However, this has been put on hold for a long time as our back-end team were delayed in their tasks. This was a huge problem because despite delivering our front-end work on time, the back-end could not do the same. Consequently, the deadlines on the Gantt Chart could not be met and had to be pushed back. This caused a butterfly effect and future deadlines had to be pushed back as well, effectively giving less time for me and Yi Sen to complete our subsequent tasks. I am worried that the back-end team will not finish their work in time for us to connect our front-end to their back-end. Not only that, we still have to look for the algorithm in extracting the keywords from the user question.

Besides that, for the project management report, I was allocated two parts, in which were the introduction to project management, and the risk management section. I managed to identify new risks and subsequently added them into the risk register. I realized that our initial risk register was not really good, as it could not identify the problems that we were currently facing.

3 Self-Learning

I have learnt a lot in these past few weeks. Firstly, I learnt that I should have been more adaptive and flexible, and suggested to contact Miss Soon via different platforms, such as email, rather than spamming her on Slack. Besides that, I learnt that even if met with a problem, no one will solve it for me. However, it still has to be solved. For example, being unfamiliar with HTML and CSS. Even if I am unfamiliar with it, I have been allocated that task. Therefore, it is my responsibility to complete it. I have to find out a way to make it work, despite not knowing how to initially. Furthermore, I learnt to be more adaptive and flexible, and to have acceptance of whatever has happened. For example, I had to reluctantly learn to accept the fact that our back-end team have not delivered their tasks on time. Despite being annoyed that I have to re-organize and re-plan my other work, there is nothing I can do but to focus on my own work and wait for them. Hopefully with this patience, I will be calm and collected enough to complete my tasks when they have eventually delivered their parts. Not only that, I believe that I should contact the back-end team more, and communicate with them to remind them about the upcoming deadlines. Hopefully through that, they will have some sense of urgency in remembering to deliver their parts on time.

4 Impact of Covid19 Pandemic

The covid 19 pandemic has not been easy on us as well. I believe that it has had a significant impact on our team's progress as a whole. Due to the pandemic, we were unable to meet up with our project supervisor during the semester break, and therefore we were unable to contact her to start earlier. Besides that, due to majority of classes being online, there is no reason to come to school from a university student's perspective, as they can be attended from at home. Therefore, most of us do not have the same days of physical classes. As a result, we cannot have frequent meetings on campus. I believe this affects

the progress a lot as we cannot check or effectively communicate if there are any problems that arise when doing our respective tasks.