

TECHNICAL REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

The Course Assignment for the Project Methodology Course was to make a Gantt chart for a fictional website project. The website was to be for a medium sized company producing one of the best apple juices in Norway.

INTERPRETATION OF THE TASK

There was no time frame or resource limits mentioned in the Assignment text, but I chose to stay close to the frames given in the example file in the resources section of the assignment.

I also chose to use GanttProject, a free Gantt chart software recommended in Lesson 1.4 Project Management and Gantt Charts.

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

INSPIRATION

I have made a couple of websites. Although I have been working in smaller scale, it has given me some insights as of what such a project may demand. Although not using Gantt, I also had to set up some similarly detailed timetables for my exams during the years at Graphic Design at Noroff.

In addition to past experience my inspiration came mostly from the Lynda Video Learning Gantt by Chris Croft from Lesson Assignment 1.4 of the Project Methodology Course. Similarly I was inspired by the Gantt_Chart_Workflow_Case.xlsx file from the Course Assignment Resources.

ANALYSIS

I chose to use the free GanttProject software which was one of a few recommended in the Gantt lesson. In retrospect I see some limitations in an automated software like this. I would have liked to add a legend at the bottom, as well as mark some half/day tasks, and checking in with Project Manager after finished tasks without a lot of small fields pushing everything downward and making the chart unreadable. I also see that when saving as PDF you lose some details and notes, and collaborators should probably have the same Gantt software to fully exploit all options. This is obviously a drawback.

The Lynda video one the subject recommended Excel, and I can see now that this would have given me some more freedom. Excel would have cost me some time in learning specific functions for this specific need though, so there is some give and take at play here. I will probably go for Excel the next time.

WORK PROCESS

As mentioned I have done some website projects and set up some time tables for such project in the past, so I did not do much research this time. But I compared my experiences with the already mentioned excellent *Gantt_Chart_Workflow_Case.xlsx*, and of course the information in the actual Assignment. With this in mind I started noting down resources needed, and tasks needed. After some brainstorming and noting, I roughly grouped my resources and tasks and put them in the right order. I also divided the process into four main parts (Planning/research, Design, Development, Testing/evaluating/refining). These would basically be my Critical Path. When this was ready I started making my Gantt chart in GanttProject.

There was no set time limit or resource limit in the assignment. My role was also a bit unclear which led to some guessing in which roles needed to be contracted. But I guess these are minor details in this Assignment context. I am not a developer yet, so I wrote the Gantt as Project manager with a common small team of web designer and web developer.

As for the time frame I would maybe have liked a little more time in all of the main parts, but as no time limit was given I tried to keep close to the timeframe from the example file.

COMPOSITION, LAYOUT, GRID AND OTHER ELEMENTS

My Layout was obviously limited to the software layout. I tried to color code each person's tasks, but with no legend that could maybe be hard to understand.

SUMMARY AND EVALUATION

My time plan is maybe a bit tight, but as mentioned I tried to stay close to the timeframe from the example file. I have no experience in big team projects and the expected time frames professional teams of coders and designers use. An internet search also gives a big variation in time frames. But the Gantt chart gives a very good basis for planning and tracking progress, as well as for explaining the plan to the whole team.

Although somewhat limited by the software (or my knowledge of using it) I still believe my Gantt chart gives a clear view of the plan, and gives everyone on the team a clear view of their specific tasks and when they need to be done. Gantt also gives an excellent view of how tasks correlate with others.

SOURCES AND REFERENCES

Anonymous. n.d. *Gantt Chart Workflow Case*. Course materials, Front-End Development, Noroff Vocational School. Filename: *Gantt_Chart_Workflow_Case.xlsx*. [27 September 2017].

Croft, C. 2015. *Learning Gantt Charts*. Retrieved from: <https://www.lynda.com/Charts-Graphs-tutorials/Gantt-Charts-Explained/365730-2.html> [22 September 2017].