Personal Reflective Report – Cormac Brady cob16

As the leader of the group my duties included:

* Conducting the group meetings
* Checking up on individuals and group progress
* Working with other group members on their tasks when I had time

However my role also came to include:

* General maintaining of remote git repository
* Creating/updating of minuets, “Gant chart”, timesheets and other administrative docs
* Creating/updating of MySQL database (“main SysAdmin”)

These duties gave the team a framework in which to create good quality work. I do wish that some of the administrative tasks (such as the administrative docs) were handed by other group members as that was what a large bulk of my time was spent doing, however the real issue may be that this work is often very tedious.

As will be probably mentioned in others reflective reports the two main problems we faced was not knowing how long certain tasks would take due to our inexperience and more importantly the many communication problems, our main method was that of email for formal communication and for informal communication group/individual instant messages. However it came to light that many group members did not check these very quickly meaning that often proper correspondence was left to the weekly meetings, this slowed development significantly relative to the ideal if we all worked the same hours in one office.

Attendance of some team members was extremely poor and I found that the card system was not very effective in stopping this as members who were out of contact could not be informed about cards anyway so made no difference in their poor behaviour.

Owning my own VPS and volunteering to use it to host the database and website was one of the best decisions I made in the project as we were a lot freer in what we could and could not do. My server even turned out to also be more reliable and up-to-date than the university systems that other groups used.

The coding week is where we fell short the most as we did not have enough people who were familiar with android development before we started the week so putting more people on the task was akin to poring fuel on the fire.

As the leader of the group I took “the show must go on!” attitude to uncooperative team members. Tending to move a task to another member if they took too long. I feel that many of them abused this and it ended up getting away with almost no effort on this project. My failing do deal with slackers must had had an impact as we had less manpower for the project. Someone studying for a degree you would expect full participation and motivation but alas that is not the case. Next time I will not assume that from the start.

To conclude, even though it has been a very stressful exercise, I have learned a huge amount on what it is to run a team of 12. Running a project requires jumping to lots of things all the time and getting bogged down in the details often makes you lose sight of the overall progress of the group. I just wish I knew what I know now at the beginning of the project so we could have done even better.