

Team Reflection - Team Chill

Peer Review

Marco Salazar

- **Prabhav's comments on Marco**

Marco handled the frontend really well. He was fast with JavaScript and had great design sense so our UI was pretty amazing. One thing he could have improved on is writing JS classes for some of the front-end things; since this was a frontend heavy site, there were times when the backend guys would help out with it and it would have been nice to have a well defined structure. Other than that, he was a really awesome teammate.

- **Jamie's comments on Marco**

Marco showed his expertise in both integrating third party applications and writing javascript code. Marco could work on his interaction with the team. Overall, he worked well with the team, but on a couple of occasions he criticized team members for not completing work as quickly as he would have. Marco is very talented, but because of this he needs to remember that other team members may not be able to work at the same pace that he can.

Prabhav Jain

- **Marco's comments on Prabhav**

Prabhav was a great teammate who was very timely with his work and put very careful consideration into designing our backend models and their relationships with one another. He could improve by testing his contributions before committing them instead of asking me to test his contributions when I am trying to test my own contributions; this would have made the debugging process a lot easier and would have meant less I had to rewrite/add less controller and model code.

- **Jamie's comments on Prabhav**

Prabhav was great to work with on this team. He was very thorough in his implementation of the backend and was responsive to the feedback Marco and I gave him. The only criticism I have for Prabhav is that he could have written tests for the backend sooner. He and I split up the development of the backend, so it would have been nice to see working tests before the very last minute.

Jamie Fox

- **Prabhav's comments on Jamie**

Jamie was an awesome teammate. Since he was prompt with his work, it was easy to discover any flaws in our design or methodology quickly. Some

constructive advice would be to research in advance a particular Rails thing (i.e. STI) so we don't spend too much time trying to adapt it to our project. Simplicity is always key.

- **Marco's comments on Jamie**

Jamie has a firm grasp of backend and was a responsive teammate who also pitched in on helping with HTML/CSS despite the original decision of having him be strictly backend. He could improve by being more reliable and sticking to deadlines he gives himself and by documenting code better so that I don't get lost reading through controller code to figure out what his endpoints needed.

Technical Decisions:

In terms of backend technical decisions, we decided to use a gem for geocoding so that we could do queries based on location. We also wanted to incorporate payments so we integrated Stripe into the backend, which meant that we could offload much of the security risks as well as implementation details while focusing on the core logic of Storable. We could have written both of these things on our own but decided to build on top of other really good gems. Moreover, we kept our controllers really dry and parceled out all of the logic into our models, which really helped keep Jamie and Prabhav aligned as they worked on controllers. We also decided to give immense flexibility to our Storable hosts and renters by allowing one listing to be used by many people at once (i.e. one listing could have many reserved dates). This did make queries on the backend harder, especially when the renters searched for availability by a date range, but it was more convenient for the end users overall.

In terms of frontend technical decisions, we decided that using Backbone throughout the whole site would be a little overkill so we used Backbone for authentication and messaging. We made good use of partial templating and used a lot of AJAX for communicating with the backend.

Evaluation: Team Planning

At the start of the project we dictated a clear separation of roles. Jamie and Prabhav would work on the backend, and Marco would be responsible for the frontend. We decided what landmarks we wanted to hit for our MVP and for our final product and what the rough timeline would be. Since the three of us lived together, we were able to easily work around each other's schedule. We sent out emails every week coordinating schedules and telling each other what we would have done and by when. Whenever any of us had any blocking questions, we'd just walk over to the other team member's rooms and discuss the problem. For the MVP, Prabhav and Jamie even sat down together and pair programmed the initial models so that we were both on the same page. As a result our implementation and project went quite smoothly. We were able to

accomplish everything we wanted with Storable (as well as a few extra additions). Even though we each were in charge of specific aspects, Marco made contributions to models and controllers by adding a few model methods, rewriting controllers and adding validations. Similarly Prabhav and Jamie assisted with basic front-end HTML structure.