

Marauder's MIT Final Team and Individual Reflections

What went well:

All of us got along extremely well and the project was fun to implement. None of the work felt like actual work. We did a great job and balancing each other out and front-loaded the work sufficiently. Communication was super easy. We also did a much better job at communicating what needs to be done and using task managers like Trello to delegate tasks and make sure that everything was completed on time.

What could've been improved:

We still could have done better with organization and technical debt. Although we sort of learned from the MVP that we weren't great at organization, and although we changed a few things to get better, we still ended up with a lot of sloppy code and some bugs that were hard to fix as well as poor prioritization regarding what is important to get done first and what is important to get finicky about. We actually had a lot of really great ideas for organization but the act of actually getting organized wasn't as successful.

What you would do differently in future:

A really great idea might have been to take models from professional software development: code reviews, not committing to master until your code has been thoroughly tested and vetted, and just in general making sure that the master branch remains pristine so that errors don't build upon errors and we can be sure at all times that we have a healthy production model to demo and turn in. However, in order to do this we have to balance speed vs correctness. It's entirely possible if we had done this we couldn't have accomplished half of the features that we did. We chose "speed" as a higher priority.

Additionally we should have deployed our app much sooner and tested it. Things worked well when we were on localhost, but then we didn't try them out on Meteor's server sooner and we ran into some problems.

In regards to a lot of things, we were willing to take a lot of risks that didn't always pan out perfectly in the end.

Peer reviews:

Reviews from Caitlin:

I really loved working with everyone! In general even though we were sometimes super derp on a lot of things, I enjoyed being derp with ya'll way more than I could ever enjoy being non-derp with anyone else. Yay team.

Connie - Connie you did great. The best part about working with you is that you're so collaborative and open to feedback, and I felt the mutual brainstorming process was really productive and rewarding and we got great things out of it.

Linda - I really appreciated how hard you worked even though you were super busy! I also really appreciated the front-loading that you did, since I think the only reason our project wasn't in total and complete panic at the final deadline was because of all of the front-loaded work. You da best.

Aradhana - I really appreciated that you took the time to do a lot of the work that is not always intuitive or easy to figure out, and I know that that doesn't always pan out perfectly in the long run. But it was really important to the project. Thanks so much for the effort you put in even when you had a ton of other stuff going on.

Tiffany - You were so dang reliable; I always thought front-end was a shitshow and backend was the only thing that somehow made the project run okay because at least backend had it's shit together. Thanks for being the one part of the project that somehow had its shit together because I for one did not know what I was doing.

Reviews from Linda:

Caitlin - With so many tasks and deadlines to keep track of, it's important to keep everything organized. And man, we were organized, and we have to thank you for that, Caitlin. I'm really glad you introduced us to Trello and updated all of the tasks and boards. It was super useful and prevented us from sitting around with nothing to do at any point in time. And good job working with Connie on the UI! I remember waking up in the morning to plenty of messages from you two working late into the night.

Aradhana - Thanks for wrestling with the email verification for so long -- it sounded really hard and I feel so bad that we didn't even end up using it in the end :(And thank you for helping me write tests! Sorry for roping you into using Jasmine XDDD "I hate how this tries to be English" -- did you notice that one of its methods was "expect(something).toBeTruthy()"? XD

Tiffany - Thanks for always having such reliable code! I feel like we all pushed something that broke our app in other places at some point... except you XD Thanks for writing all of simple schema and tackling the database issues, and thanks for jumping in and fixing bugs as they came up.

Connie - I'm so glad I got to work with you, on this project and throughout the semester! I think we work really well together :))) You did an amazing job on the UI -- I would pull the code the next day and it was like you had pointed a magic wand at my screen, because everything had become so beautiful -- the fonts, the colors, the spacing... I really appreciate all of the effort you put into the project, and it definitely showed! Also thanks for being on top of things and reminding us about the reflections ;)

Reviews from Connie:

Tiffany - Thank you for working on the Simple Schema and finishing it in such a short time! Honestly, I expected there to be some bugs with the backend changes but there were none at

all. You're so good at backend and I'm so jealous of that! You and Linda did an awesome job at debugging our code!

Aradhana - Thank you for working on the email verification for so long and getting so far with it! I'm sorry that it didn't work out at the end and we couldn't help much :(You did an awesome job with the tests though!

Caitlin - Yay UI buddy!! Glad we were able to work together on it. I think we made a huge improvement on it. I had a lot of fun designing and figuring out CSS with you. You also have a great intuition at trying things and then they suddenly work.

Linda - You're seriously so good at finding bugs and then fixing them with Tiffany. You were so busy yet you did so much work. Thanks for working on the tests and the checkin! I'm glad you're so good with backend and that we could work together!

Reviews from Tiffany:

Aradhana - Thank you for working so hard on the email verification thing! So sad that it didn't work out but I know how much time you put into. Thanks for having such a chill and helpful attitude. And for being such a good sport about tests!

Caitlin - Thanks so much for working with Connie on the UI! It looks great! You have a good idea for how things should be planned out in the future and you put in a lot of time even though you are busy.

Linda - Thanks for tackling the tests! Sorry it had to fall on you and Ara. It didn't seem fun but thanks for putting in so much time on it!

Connie - Thanks so much for putting in so much time and energy! I feel like you got a ton of features done and you and Caitlin made our app look so good.

Reviews from Aradhana:

Tiffany - Thanks for working on the simple schema and writing the code for managing friends.

Connie - I feel like I always got late-night messages from you about the work you were doing, so thanks for all the hard work you've put into this. And thanks for keeping us on track with deadlines and things.

Caitlin - Thanks for being so friendly all the time. Trello continues to be great, and I'm definitely using it for other projects afterwards. Thanks for the awesome work on the UI too, and for having the sense to fix the routing issues as we were up against the deadline.

Linda - Thanks for working on the unit tests with me. I still dislike Jasmine, but I think I have more appreciation for it once we got it working.