FINAL Reflection & Personal Evaluation
Projects in CS, Fall 2017

Your Name: Micah Tratt   **Due Date**: Monday 29th January 2018.

Final Instructions: Take this document file and using an editor, fill in your answers to all sections and return the completed file to Mr. Bergquist **by the end of Monday 29th January 2018** (Tuesday 30th at the latest). For reason of confidentiality, it may be best for you to either email the file to me OR copy it to a thumb drive at the end of class I will provide. Make sure I have a copy of your Final before you leave class.
Document Guidelines: Assemble your thoughts into full sentences and paragraphs – a portion of your grade is on clearly expressing your thoughts professionally and answering all these questions. Recommended to follow standard technical writing format of about five paragraphs of five sentences each. You can combine your answers to a few questions into a single paragraph, but make sure to answer all sections completely. **If you need more time, let me know before you leave class.** Feel free to send me any later thoughts to add to your reflection – I am interested in your thoughts.

Part I: Our Process Reflection:
You have learned product design stages and the Agile Sprint software development process; both of these are used by many companies to successfully to design, develop and maintain products in teams. In addition, you have worked in teams on projects for a few months and experienced the dynamics that can develop in such environments. I want you to reflect on how this semester's experience has affected the way you think about programming projects and will change your approach for new ones in the future. Though the classroom is not the same as a full time work environment, consider how they may be more effective for teams in the work place.

Specific questions to answer and help guide your thoughts:

A) **Most Important Insight:** What is the most important thing you have learned in this class over the past several weeks? May be best to come back to this question after going through the following ones.
I think that the most important thing that I have learned is that there are multiple solutions to a problem and that there are multiple solutions to every problem. At times throughout this project, I felt that there was no way around something I was getting stuck on. However when I communicated my issues to the mentors or to my group members, putting our heads together really sparked new ideas or solutions. This process helped us succeed and progress so far this semester and I look to continue communicating in order to find solutions to the inevitable challenges I will encounter farther down the road.

B) **Project design Stages:** These stages included Brainstorming, Screening (selecting the idea), User & Market research driving Scoping (honing your Minimum Viable Product, MVP), and expert sessions. Using your perspective now, what part of the Project Design process were the most important for your project? Which of these will you apply to future endeavors? Did you feel any were not beneficial? Explain.

I think that by far the most important step was User and Market Research driving scoping. In this stage, we discovered an app that was released just a couple of years ago and its main feature was fairly similar to our app in that it centered around food. Because of this discovery, we changed the direction of our project and catered to a more academic/social/club interested population within

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Garfield. I definitely will apply the entire process to any future endeavor because every step provided useful information that ultimately made it easier to refine our ideas to the point of a clear MVP. Also since this process is derived from many major companies and start-ups, I don't think that any step is a waste, otherwise it would have been forgotten by now.

C) Agile Sprint process: How did it work for you and your team(s)? How may you apply portions of it to future individual and group programming projects? If not, why do you think it does not apply?

I think that it was a great process because it gave our group the opportunity to re-evaluate and refocus, while also serving as a deadline that pushed us to work harder. Near the end of most sprints it was cool to look back and feel that we had accomplished something without feeling overwhelmed with all that is still left in front of us. I think that I will apply the short-sighted sprint to almost every project of any major size because it seems to be the best way to break down one large and imposing task into many very achievable tasks. I also will be sure to implement the pink-only starburst system as I found that it served as excellent incentive to sufficiently develop and write out tasks.

D) Team Dynamics: What different dynamics developed in working in a team for several weeks, both good and bad (please list several)? What did you learn about others? What did you learn about yourself? How has this affected the way you will approach selecting and working in groups in the future?

I think a good dynamic is that we all began to build on each others work. Once we all learned how to work with gitHub, it became much easier to streamline all of our work into the master branch and could work way more efficiently. A group dynamic I didn't love was it felt that sometimes members lacked the initiative to choose their own task and would wait until a job was given to them for any work to be done.

E) Improvements: How would you suggest changing the execution of projects for next semester? Require out of class time on projects? What additional assessment/feedback would you find the most beneficial? How can we better use the mentors? Any other suggestions for the class?

I think that the beginning of this year took a long time to start. In the future I would maybe use the time to show other projects and maybe do a review of coding conventions while everything is getting situated rather than just draw out the selection process for teams.

(Section II continues on next page…)

Part II: Personal Evaluation:

Similar to the evaluation you gave others, I want you to assess your strengths and weaknesses encountered in this class. Answer the following questions regarding you.

Evaluation Actions as an Individual:
- Discipline: stayed on task, making good use of class time
- Put in extra effort when needed to get priority tasks completed
- Contributed useful ideas
- Quantity of work done – sufficiently contributed to the workload
- Quality of work done – created code that worked correctly and integrated with others work smoothly
- Helped others with their work when needed
- Contributed positively in group discussions & decisions
- Provided and received feedback effectively and constructively

Evaluation Actions as a Manager: (optional)
- Helped keep the group focused on tasks and the project goal
- Helped raise the standard of the group by example, encouraging
- Encouraged innovation among team members

A. Your Strengths: As a project team member, what two or three activities listed above did you demonstrate the strongest during our Projects? Follow each activity with examples that demonstrate your accomplishments.

Discipline. At times during the first part of the year I struggled with staying disciplined but I have drastically changed once the project officially began. I stay disciplined by using all of the resources in the classroom and challenge all of my group members to do the same by example. I think that discipline is a key ingredient for success in any start up company or business and shows interest and engagement with whatever is being worked on. As a result, discipline and staying on task have been a strength of mine this semester.

Quality/Quantity. I feel that in nearly every sprint, I have learned a significant amount about our project and have contributed a significant portion of the code that is in use now. I feel that I have excelled in this area because of the questions asked in class and time allocated for working outside of class.

B. An Area for Improvement: Pick the activity that you feel you could use improvement, why did you select it, and describe what you could do to get stronger in this area.

Helped other with their work when needed. Often times I was so wrapped up in my own tasks that I was too busy to help others with their code or questions. I think that to improve, I could set aside time in the class for everyone to ask questions and we can all work to fix them more efficiently. This would also be a great opportunity to update everyone on the code and to share with them any progress.

Competencies:
- Technical Excellence

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- Efficient use of Limited Resources (i.e. time)
- Teamwork
- Willingness to do what is needed to achieve goal
- Dealing with Ambiguity
- Innovate & Simplify
- Communications

C. Competency Strengths: From the list of Competencies above, select two that you feel you excel at. And again give examples that demonstrate that trait.

Efficient use of Limited Resources. I have begun to realize that it is impossible to actually complete this project in class time alone. As a result, I come into class with as many questions as possible for the mentors and group members to answer. I find that asking questions and syncing up with members is a very efficient way to spend class time.

Willingness to do what is needed to achieve goal. I feel that I have excelled at this because multiple times in the project, I have chosen the most ambitious tasks to work on that are necessary for the team to move on and achieve MVP. Although it may be difficult at times, I am happy to do what is necessary because I often find myself learning along the way.

D. Competency for Improvement: Pick a Competency that you would like to improve upon, why you feel this is most important, and then describe how you might develop it in the future.

Communications. I think that a lot of the time I struggled to communicate sufficiently with most of my group members and sometimes it created an overlap of duties or confusion. I think that I can improve upon this by responding more rapidly to the group chat as well as taking a moment to explain my work and ideas when displaying or going over tasks in a group setting.

E. Reaction to your Peer Evaluation: Was there anything that surprised you with the feedback you got from your peer evaluations? Do you think that it was accurate or not? If you disagreed, let me know why.

I think that I was very aware of everything that was on the peer evaluation. I definitely need to improve my communication skills, both in the classroom and in the real world. My mom would love it if I changed based off of this peer evaluation so we shall see!

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