Process report

Date: 20th March 2023

Location: Eindhoven

Members: Ciuperca, Diana

             Daba, Alexandru

             Digrys, Augustinas

             Rasche, Milan

Tutor: Lepper, Frank de

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Introduction

During the first 6 weeks of the project where we had to follow the waterfall methodology, we had to create a well-planned program which we followed in order to ensure a good work environment for the team.

Communication

One area where we excelled as a team was communication. We held two meetings per week, on Monday and Thursday, to discuss progress, identify challenges, and make decisions collectively. These meetings were essential in keeping everyone on the same page and guaranteeing we stayed on track with our deadlines. In addition to these meetings, we created a WhatsApp group chat to quickly make announcements and discuss any news related to the project. This allowed us to stay connected and informed even when we were busy with personal tasks, and to address any issues in a timely manner. Overall, our communication strategy was effective in fostering a collaborative and productive team environment.

Work division

For documentation we decided to create an OneDrive folder for the group where we would keep all the documents, giving us the possibility to work on the same document at the same time. In this manner we managed to finish them during the designated team work times.

As for implementation, we created a design together that we were content with and followed soon after with implementation. Firstly, we split in 3 groups, animal management, employee management and database. When working on the same files became difficult, we separated each other based on which functionalities we were implementing.

We created a Trello board so we could keep track at all times what are the subtasks for each part of the project, what functionalities need implementation, what was done and which tasks did each person take. The intuitive color code (greed = done, yellow = in progress, red = to do) was also useful in keeping track of the progress.
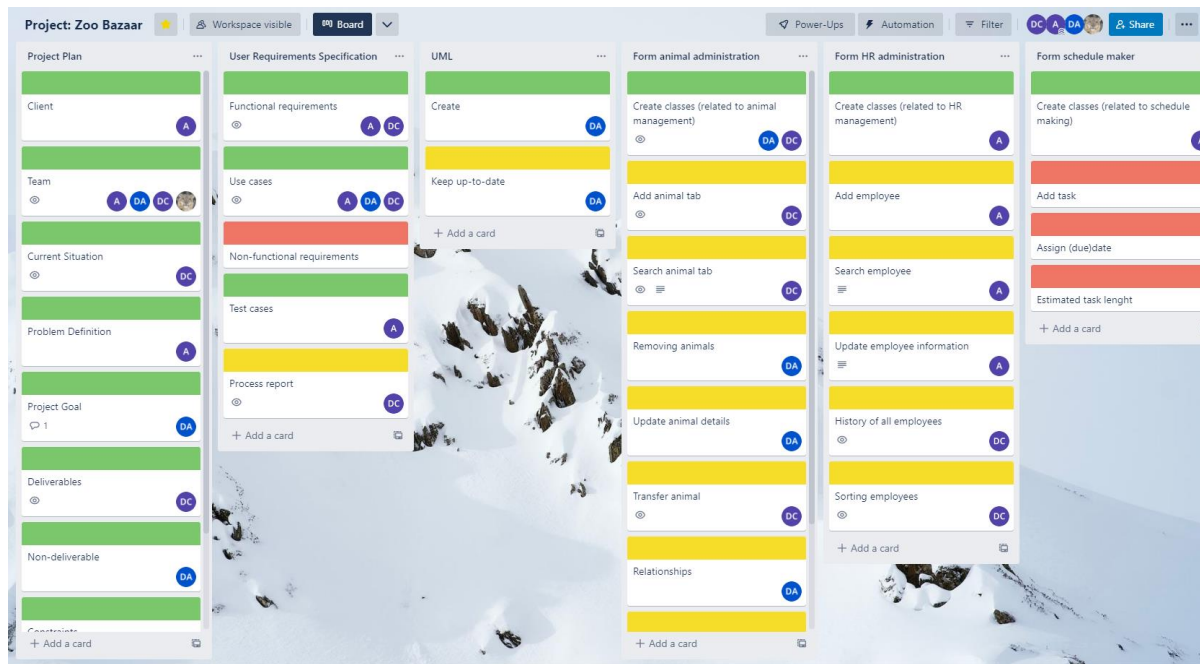
Team agreements and planning

We agreed on doing most of the group work at university, mostly during the designated project blocks, but also have some hours to finish our individual parts at home, deciding the deadlines as a team.

Monday – 3 hours in the morning designated for tutor meet, documentation, and planning

Tuesday – 1 hour dedicated to creating the meeting agenda for client meetings.

Thursday – 6 hours designated for implementation and client meeting

Additional – 2-3 hours of individual work based on our free time

Personal reflections

Diana Ciuperca: I was new to the team since I didn't have the chance to previously work with my fellow teammates. We got along really well, and I liked that everybody comes up with good ideas during brainstorming sessions, explaines their reasoning with strong arguments (which sometimes lead to lengthy discussions) and understands each other's point of view. This environment made me enjoy working with them and made me understand and accept new ideas when realizing I am in the wrong. Since we were all doing documentation or all doing implementation, it didn't feel like some people were doing more difficult or engaging tasks and other easier ones. Everybody is knowledgeable on the subject, is hardworking and keeps to the deadlines we set.

I am happy and confident that we are going to achieve everything we put our mind to and deliver a good project we are proud of.

Alexandru Daba: During these one and a half months of working with my group we've improved greatly and progressed greatly with our project. I've already worked with two of my teammates on the last project and we were already accustomed to working together. Our new member, Diana, was a good addition to our team and a strongly motivated person that became a very important part of our team. I am very happy with everyone's knowledge of programming, their dedication to the project and the valuable brainstorming sessions. Overall, I am very proud of my team and the progress we've made so far.

Augustinas Digrys: During the first 6 weeks of this project, our group successfully got used to working together. We usually met on Mondays and Thursdays where we discussed our approaches, worked on documents and implementation. The thing that I like most is that everyone in our group is motivated, has their own viewpoints and is ready to justify them, which means that we always have good discussions (sometimes very long) to find the best ways for implementation. I am happy to see everyone working without delays and procrastination. Personally, I liked our decisions on work division – worked on documentation, most of coding and designing together. Despite it taking more time, it is beneficial because in this way we learn everything, not only some specific parts. The progress we made during this short period gives confidence not only in the future for this project but also invaluable knowledge of technical parts.

Milan Rasche: I personally found these first 6 weeks of the project so far good and successful. Together with the group I was able to work well. Early on when the main task was documentation that was fairly easy to divide and then once we got to the actual programing things were running smoothly. Lots of good and constructive discussions within the group when it came to decision making for how to code or progress certain parts of the project. I took on taking care of the data layer and getting the database connected and working. Overall I'm confident for the coming weeks.

Reflection on Waterfall

During the first part of this group project, we were tasked with following a waterfall approach to create the zoo management system. The pros of it were that the weeks were clearly structured. We knew exactly what was required many weeks in advance and once agreements were made with the client, we could be certain that there would not be changes. The con of waterfall is the lack of flexibility. Once the group has been locked into a decision, it is no longer practical to change it, so if we realise that a certain planned approach could be better implemented differently, there was no way to change the approach. It is a more static way of doing the project, however experiencing this approach does shed light on when it is applicable.