

Five things we learned and Five mistakes we made

Group 7

Five things we learned:

1. Timely communication with team members when you are uncertain about any “small” aspect of the project is of great importance. Timely communication can ensure efficient teamwork and avoid unnecessary waste of time.
2. After division of work, every team member focuses on his specific functionality/module and he may encounter some problems, which may also be faced by other team members at the same time or later. Whoever solves this problem, should document and share with other team members what problems he encountered, and how he solved it. This can be very helpful to every member of this team.
3. Every member of our team learned how to manipulate data from MongoDB using Python. Also, this is the first time for some of our members to write API, Python codes to manipulate data from database.
4. Some of our team members never used Git before. At the beginning of the project, our team members sat together to familiarize the use of Git, the basic commands, basic operations of Git. And we later used the git-game and another tutorial to have a better practice of Git. And also we learned how a team can use Github for better team collaboration.
5. We learned that you should use your imagination when doing your project. The theme of this project can be quite open-ended and you can come up with many interesting ideas that make this project a lot of fun and attractive. However, we use a quite conservative theme to design the project and we hope that we can do conservative things in a new way.

Five mistakes we made but will not make again:

1. We almost forgot to double-check with Christine about our project idea. After double-checking with Christine, we found out that maybe we over-designed our project which may be unnecessarily too complicated. This was the mistake we made that we should base our project on the project specification and not go too far from it. Over-designing the functionality is too unnecessary.

2. Our time management was not good enough and we should have started our teamwork earlier, to earn more time for everyone to do better. We will have a better time schedule and time management in the following phases. Leave enough time for the whole team's integration and final polishing.
3. We started our design of the project without reading every detail of the project specification thoroughly. In the middle of phase one, when we re-read the project specification, we found that there were some mismatch between the requirements in the specification and our design. So we need to design some functionalities again. This was a serious mistake, and we will in the following phases, read the specifications thoroughly and in detail.
4. We think at the beginning of teamwork, we lack some team communication, which is very important for teamwork. We should enhance our communication and get familiar with each other as soon as possible.
5. Standardize the style in one team. At the beginning, our coding styles were a little bit different, and this made the combination of teamwork quite difficult. We will standardize our teamwork style and follow the same style guide to contribute to a better teamwork performance.