

## 6.170 Team Reflections

Andre Abouljian, Elliot Marquez, Cathleen Gendron, Michael Belland  
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### Managerial Perspective

Our team was successful in meeting most of the course deadlines and teamwork plan milestones, but some of our initial, ambitious scheduling goals (such as our Gantt chart) were too ambitious.

Our largest success was in our careful and thoughtful design. We discussed every aspect of the API, data structures, and core implementation before any code was actually written. This prevented a large amount of headache later in the project. Because our API specifications were so clearly defined, our frontend and backend tasks were easy to separate and delegate to individual teammates.

One failing in our team management was the inconsistency in our efforts. For most major deadlines, we would work right up to the wire, and then our efforts would dwindle in coming days. We could have prevented some burnout and possibly added additional features if we had worked more consistently throughout the whole project. Holding more team "check in" meetings could have been a better way to keep everyone on track.

### Andre

*Michael's review:* Andre was the natural leader of our team, leading design discussions and spearheading development efforts. Even falling sick near the end of the project didn't stop Andre from meeting with us and making progress on the project. He redesigned my ejs templates into robust JavaScript classes, showcasing his technical skill.

*Cathleen's review:* Andre was an effectively leader and motivator for our team. He singlehandedly wrote our entire timetable library, and he and I designed the entire API specification together. In addition to this, he ensured that the interface was totally polished before the final deadline. Andre contributed significantly to every portion of the project. A truly talented and dedicated developer, who displays fullstack competency.

*Elliott's review:* Andre was the one who reigned in our team's attention when it came to times when our project was in disarray and led the organizational effort. Additionally he

continued to work on the project despite falling sick and essentially bedridden; we had to tell him to stop working at some points.

## **Cathleen**

*Michael's review:* Cathleen looked out for the team -- thanks to her I didn't miss a TA meeting -- and contributed despite a heavy workload of classes and other work. The backend code I saw she wrote was well commented, and she was open to explaining it when necessary.

*Elliott's review:* Cathleen was an essential part to building the backend of our application. She was very forward thinking and attentive when it came to designing our infrastructure. Whenever I would find a bug with the backend, she would be right by my side and fix it then and there (or tell me the dumb mistakes I made).

*Andre's review:* Cathleen was highly motivated for the duration of the project and made significant sacrifices to meet deadlines. I collaborated with her heavily for designing the data model and API specifics, she became the go-to member for these components after implementing them. She also contributed dynamically as needs arose.

## **Elliott**

*Michael's review:* Elliott helped me out significantly -- I benefitted greatly from both his detailed explanations and knowledge of our frontend code as well as his ability to patch my code. He worked hard to keep the project on track to completion, and his knowledge of the technologies we used was excellent.

*Cathleen's review:* Elliott's perseverance was hugely valuable to our team's effort. He was always available to fix bugs, add new features to the frontend code, and adjust the UI. Despite the large quantity of work he put into the project, he was always willing to do more, staying up late and working tirelessly to meet both internal team deadlines and polish the application for official deadlines as well.

*Andre's review:* Elliott worked noticeably hard during the course of the project. He had ownership over the rich front-end layouts and components he developed, often seeking the appropriate library or bothering to understand just why a particular component misbehaved. He adapted to changes in structure/specifications well as he integrated components with the API.

## Michael

*Cathleen's review:* Michael's contributions to our design discussions at the beginning of the project helped to shape our application's data structures and overall feature set. He was a team player and made sure to provide insightful thoughts to our design. Michael displayed consistent dedication to the project from start to end.

*Andre's review:* Michael consistently demonstrated attention to detail in the components he developed. He took initiative to create the first iteration of the schedule interface, which we relied upon for our MVP. He was always present, attentive, and willing to work, asking important questions often that helped us to refine our direction as a team.

*Elliott's review:* Michael was always the first to a meeting and ready to ask the team questions that would bring up flaws on our design and he kept in touch with the TAs when we were unsure about instruction. Michael was instrumental when it came to design, and he stuck in the long hours when it came to building the front end.