Appendix 3: Advisor Feedback and Client Reflection

Note: if already mentioned in other Criteria, feedback/reflections are not included here.

Advisor Feedback

My advisor is my mom, who works in Payroll. Thus, she has some experience with team management and team management software, and she can provide me useful insight and feedback about my team management product.

My advisor tested my final program between April 1-2, and gave me feedback after. She noted that all the functions worked well and especially liked the filtering and searching function, which allowed layered filters/searches and also returned partial results in case she forgot how to spell a name or made a typo (which happens quite frequently according to her). This was a feature that is common throughout most softwares nowadays and she said it was good very user-friendly to include it in mine too (which I did). She was also very impressed with the bulk editing feature, which she said would save a lot of time.

However, she did note that file importing and exporting was buggy and didn't always work if the file was not in the right format. She also found that even if the file was in the right format, if there were lines in between members, then the file wouldn't read properly(although it didn't completely crash). She told me that it would be helpful to have documentation indicating the proper format of the file, because she couldn't figure it out herself and had to ask me (I agree with this as well). She also mentioned that there should be some way to export files into a chosen folder rather than copying the storage file from the program folder.

She also mentioned that she felt it would be better to have the filter/searching options in another window rather than beside the table.

Client Feedback (Personal Reflections)

I am my own client, as the DECA executive at my schools DECA club.

As I wrote my program, I made many changes and edits. For example, my first searching algorithm only searched by exact match names, but as I tested my program I found this to be very non-user-friendly, because only the exact name would match. I then decided to modify the search to be non-case-sensitive and to trim spaces, and finally I modified it even more to return partial results to the search query.

At first I also did not implement a layered filter, but it soon became clear that this would be very helpful (since I need to sometimes send emails to people in one grade in one subteam, the layered filters would make exporting emails and sending emails easier). So I implemented this by combining filtering methods into a global filteredMembers ArrayList.

I also notice in hindsight that my bulk member deletion algorithm should have been implemented in TeamList and not in Gui class, to allow for easier maintainability. However, this shouldn't be difficult to fix in the future.

I also need to fix the problem of not being able to delete/edit members by index if the user is not on the main display table. I have this partially coded, but it didn't work so I used another method for the final product. However, my originally planned method would be much more efficient.

I also think it would be nice to implement calendar features and integrate with SMTP to make it easier to send emails from the program. This would save even more time if it could be implemented.

The main issue with the program is that file exporting / manual importing is not the best, so I will need to implement data cleansing and validation.

Otherwise, I a very happy with how the program turned out. Everything works as expected and I can use the product to manage our DECA team. The filter, search, email exporting, and bulk editing features will help save a lot of time in administrative work.