# Group Reflections

## Anthony Brown

### What went well?

I believe we had a group of people that want to make a group work well and are prepared to work to that end. This was reflected in our ability to be decisive by sharing our opinions and then respecting the group consensus. Once a decision was made everyone effortlessly moved to the next work item.

### What could be improved?

I found our communication channels a bit stinted. We took a while to find the communication methods that suited the group. We could have been more productive in the middle part of the project. If we had got our communication working better earlier then we may have avoided this

### At least one thing that was surprising?

WE all occupy different time zones and work requirements. This didn’t cause nearly as much problems as I initially thought it might. Remote communication helped this process as members could pick up where the last had lest off.

### At least one thing that you have learned about groups?

Groups work best when everyone one is contributing.

## Tim Damon

### What went well?

The group was very well organised, using several different outlets for the organisation such as Trello, Slack, Discord and GitHub. Everyone picked up several parts of the project to complete themselves, agreeing to collaborate it all through GitHub. We had a clear list of tasks and who was assigned to what through the Trello board setup by Anthony.

### What could be improved?

Tasks assigned could be completed more quickly (myself included). More consistent group chats (through Discord) as we only got together a few times and it was never able to be all of us at once.

### At least one thing that was surprising?

How easy it was to organise everything with each person in the group without ever getting to meet face to face. Trello made creating a list of tasks and assigning them incredibly easy and that list was always there so you knew what needed doing and who was doing what.

### At least one thing that you have learned about groups?

That each individual putting in effort helps everyone else work load and that organisation is key, effective organisation can turn a large task into something much more manageable.

## Shaun Lottey

### What went well?

### What could be improved?

### At least one thing that was surprising?

### At least one thing that you have learned about groups?

## Jake McAndrew

### What went well?

I feel our group was very well organised, I’ve never used trello before, but it was a very useful tool to keep up to date on what needed to be done. Even though I found it very difficult to be online at the same time as the other group members due to my work schedule, I still feel like I always had clear direction on what needed to be done thanks to other team members.

### What could be improved?

I feel like the team worked pretty well together, the only major improvement I can see has to do with my personal time management and being more involved in group calls and discussions.

### At least one thing that was surprising?

One thing that was surprising was how organised and friendly everyone was. I have never done group work over the internet before and I was very surprised how smoothly everything went even with my limited time.

### At least one thing that you have learned about groups?

Group work is so much easier when everyone communicates and is organised

## Jason Tilgner

### What went well?

The team had some good organisation every was keen to get into the assignment, we probably didn’t have much of a structure at the start but Anthony was able to organise us and sort of become our team adviser. We used some different industry tools to be able to organise and set up a clear schedule, on who had to do what and when. Everyone was able to complete their part and make proper updates into GitHub. Some of the tools we used where trello, slack, and discord. It was also interesting to see everyone’s different industry views.

### What could be improved?

Just a bit of hesitation at the start to get tasks started and probably not spreading them out as late as we have. At some points it felt like it was taking a bit long on certain tasks.

### At least one thing that was surprising?

How easy and quick it was to organise everyone to get in communication to work out tasks and who was doing what. That everyone went off and did the task required, and generally above what was required. That members asking for each other opinions or asking for help if unsure, instead of just doing their own thing.

At least one thing that you have learned about groups?

That being organised at the start helps and that having helpful + willing team mates makes everything a lot smoother.

## Jason Walstab

### What went well?

What went well was the good organisation via Trello, an organisational online application, thanks to Anthony Brown. This allowed us to really focus on what we had to do as well as well have a clear list and direction on what we should be working on, who should be working on what and when things are done. Another highlight was the IT interview organised by Shaun Lottey which was very insightful as the IT professional we interviewed had great insights into the IT industry.

### What could be improved?

Meeting deadlines and getting work done faster, sometimes we seem to have been trailing at a slower pace than I would have liked, and the group work ended up being dragged out over a longer period than I thought we would get it done in.

### At least one thing that was surprising?

I was surprised at how effective it was to communicate and work online without the need for face to face interaction. In some ways it was more effective than working onsite in a team as we could easily post and share our documents in a central location.

### At least one thing that you have learned about groups?

I have learned that organisation is key and that the better organised we are as a team the faster work gets done, which in a way is more important than peoples individual skill level.

## Main Group Reflection:

Holding the group together has been out tools: GitHub, which we have used to combine all our resources, Trello, where we have meticulously planned our journey, Slack, which has been where we have done our chat groups, and our frequent meetings over discord when we were sick of typing.

These tools have really been the backbone for this group and have allowed us to work as a team regardless of distance or time zones. We believe that, without these tools the work would not have been possible. We all feel that what went well was the setting up of these tools from the start to ensure everyone could follow along and contribute as necessary. This allowed us to establish as clear workflow structure that we could all follow.

Coming from all different backgrounds, places, jobs, educational and technical levels we have managed to work well as a team mainly thanks to good organisational structure and a fair level of contribution among all our team members.

One area we feel we could have improved on is a more standard format for file contributions and uploads, as filenames and commit comments got a bit crazy towards the end with different versions of files in the GitHub repository and no common standard for commit comments or version numbers on documents. Towards the end it did get better as we organised the GitHub repository to better handle our documents and commits.

Something that was surprising was the spread of everyone's different skills and areas of expertise that helped us to gain insights from perspectives that we do not see for ourselves. This mix of different skills and experience did not result in conflicts among members, but instead really helped use work together.

The thing we have all learned is that communication is key in doing group projects, and the more communication we had the quicker we were able to finish off sections of the assignment. This was especially critical towards the end of the assignment, when we needed to start putting everything together into a single, workable project page.

We started off to a slow and rocky start but in the end have pulled through and hopefully have done an excellent job. All of us feel that together we have been able to manage this workload better than expected and are excited to move onto the main IT project side of things.