CS 425 Senior Project I Fall 2014

Team Post-Mortem Report

Complete and submit by Wednesday, December 10th.

This is a graded assignment.

There are **two sections** to the Team Post Mortem Report:

1. responding to the prompts (i.e., statements/questions on this page) provided
2. free comments (you may write anything you wish to express)

The complete report can be **submitted**:

a) via email
b) in person (to the instructor; not in a mailbox, not under the door, not with a fox, …)
c) to the CS department secretary (in person; not in a mailbox, not under the door, …)

CS 425 Senior Project I Fall 2014

Team Post-Mortem Report

Name: Team Observatory

Project: Observatory Scheduler

Members: Jaime Acevedo, Matthew Bunch, Ryan Sharp

Date: December 10th, 2014

SECTION 1: Question / Statement Prompts

1. Is the team ahead or behind schedule? How do you know (be very specific: for example, include data/documentation of things done/not done, estimation documents, Gantt charts, burndown charts, …)?

   The team's current project progression is currently on schedule. We have determined this by various factors which include previously scheduled milestones and our estimation documents. Thus far, our team has only conducted 1 full sprint (11/03/14 – 11/16/14). After the first sprint, we determined that it took less person-hours than what was scheduled to be done in our burndown chart. For example, we initially planned for 226 total person hours to complete our project in 6 bi-weekly sprints. The first sprint was an actual total of 29 person-hours, which is below our projected 30 person hours. Nonetheless, this fell pretty accurate to what we expected.

   Milestone-wise, we have achieved all goals set-to-date. The major milestone to be complete by the end of the fall semester was to get our Core Component functionally working. This task was broken down into several sub tasks. By the end of the semester we managed to complete this and put ourselves in a position to be on target for next semester.

2. List the risk(s) (name them all, but don't describe them) that concern the team (in approximate order of concern) with respect to successfully completing the project.

   The current risks that are still potential concerns for the future implementation of our project are:
   - Feature Creep
   - Feedback from telescope software
   - Choice of software for the telescope

   The impact of these risk have since been lowered, due to our mitigation strategies that were put in place.

3. What one thing had the biggest negative impact on the team/project this semester?

The biggest negative impact on our team's project has been the Client's proposed requirement for a manual transfer of generated XML files to the telescope observatory server. In essence, this has served as an implementation design constraint for our team and has disallowed for a fully automated workflow. When our team first gathered our requirements for this project, we envisioned to have the front end interface fully schedule all observation times and establish scheduled times with the telescope software. Instead, the client has proposed to manually transfer these files over the server and upload them to the telescope himself.

This design constraint puzzled all of us on the team because we did not understand why the client preferred this method over an automated FTP process but after further meetings with our client we determined that it is a preferable method for security purposes and communication between two different application interfaces.

4. What one thing could have been done differently / better thus far?

   One thing that could have been done differently throughout our team's project is the current process of organization, communication within our team and to our client. We have not had a consistent schedule of weekly team meetings and client meetings. If we were to redo this, we would have better organized our in-person team meetings to meet at specific date and times that would re-occur. This would also apply to our client meetings. Due to the busy schedule of our client we were unable to set up consistent weekly meetings, but remained informative through email.

   For next semester, we plan to improve in all of the above areas by using our phone calendar app to remind us to meet and communicate about general and specific progress of our project. Finally, we did not use our BitBucket repository as much as we intended to. This was because we found it a lot easier to communicate over the phone or through text about who/what needs to get done, and to store deliverables/resources on DropBox.

5. What one thing worked well this semester that the team will continue to try and do?

   The most efficient aspects about our team has had throughout the course of our project has been our team's ability to get along with each other. We had a good connection from the start and haven't really had any bad disputes about the project, and this allowed a relaxing and laid back, but productive, work environment. This allowed for us to have open conversations without fearing negative feedback about one another's opinions and thoughts.

6. Is the team confident the product can be delivered in April 2015?

   Yes, all of us on the team believe and agree that we will have a full finished product by the end of April 2015.

7. Will there be changes in the team's plan for the second semester (besides work day schedule revision due to things like classes)?

   As far as our team is aware, no changes will be made to our project that is not specified in the revised project plan. The client seems happy with the manual process and so we will carry on with current requirements, assuming they are final.

8. For each team member, state which one (or two) of the following items is how the most significant contribution to the team was made. Name and describe your most significant (one, or two) contributions:
   a. team process
   b. project planning
   c. working with / communicating with the customer
   d. system design
   e. user interface design
   f. user interface testing
   g. system development
   h. system quality assurance
   i. risk management
   j. documentation
   k. other (please describe)

Jaime Acevedo

1. System Design – Jaime contributed to the overall database design of the application. This includes use case diagrams, ER diagrams, and physical set-up work. The database is major component of the application and will be used actively when users log in/out, schedule observations, and view their results.

2. System Development – Jaime Contributed to the proper XML formatting of the auto-generated file that gets fed to the telescope software. Jaime's contribution required extensive implantation and research how java generated and reads in XML files.

Ryan Sharp

1. Interface Design – Ryan's most contributed item was the interface design of the Observatory Scheduler. Ryan used the latest bootstrap edition to make the user interface look user friendly and appealing to the eye. He also integrated the data transfer from the web form to the database so it can be stored from reading/writing.

2. System Development – Ryan Contributed to relevant error checking of our project component. Assuring that no invalid data gets stored to the database. Ryan has put in a lot of effort and research to make this contribution.

Matt Bunch

1. Documentation – Matt has contributed extensively to all project documentation and estimation documents. Matt is the customer proxy, and has a more in depth knowledge of the customer needs and uses this to set up the documentation. All team members have contributed to documentation but Matt has contributed significantly more to it than everyone.

2. Project Planning – Matt has contributed to the overall planning of the entire project and has worked with the client to assure that we are meeting the requirements along with assessing feasible implementation due dates.

SECTION 2: Other Comments (optional)