

MVP Reflections - CoCompose

6.170 Final Project

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Peer review

What does Jessica think about...

Kim:

I didn't work with Kim directly on any portions of this project, but I do know that she got her section of the work done ahead of time. I think she did a really good job with her portion of the work, and it was great to see how excited she was about the project and using the app. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IdneKLhsWOOQ>

Lisandro:

Lisandro also got his section of the project done early and did a great job with that as well. He was very helpful when I had some issues with my sections and needed help debugging the code I was working with. He is a great member and contributor to this team.

Stuart:

I spent most of my time working with Stuart for this portion of the project. He was very easy to work with and accommodating in terms of finding times and locations to meet up and work together. In the beginning we had trouble getting socket.io and other npm modules to work, but once we got through those bugs, Stuart was able to contribute a lot to the project.

What does Kim think about...

Jessica:

I didn't work with Jessica directly for the MVP implementation, but I know she spent a lot of time working with Stuart on getting the initial code Lisandro and I pushed to work (we didn't add all the node modules to package.json at first), converting our code to use handlebars, and implementing authentication, the login/register pages, and all of the routing. Jessica also spent time getting started on non-MVP features like sharing sheets, which has put us ahead of our initial schedule :)

Lisandro:

I worked with Lisandro directly for most of our part of the MVP implementation. From the start, Lisandro had a clear vision of what needed to be done, which was great for getting started and planning out what each of us should work on. This was especially helpful when we decided on the initial changes to the Notes implementation. Lisandro understood what needed to be done and wrote all of the initial Notes code to get the process started. Because he seemed to have a better grasp on what needed to be done and how we should go about implementing certain features, I defaulted to him when I was free to work on another part of the implementation.

Stuart:

I didn't work with Stuart directly on the MVP implementation, but I know he and Jessica worked together to implement all the features I mentioned in my review of Jessica. They implemented these features quickly and did a great job. Stuart also worked on implementing sheets specifically, which has allowed us to begin implementing non-MVP features.

What does Lisandro think about...

Jessica:

Jessica was involved less so at the beginning of our implementation process, but towards the end, was able to contribute more and implemented some critical features that we needed for our MVP and final product. She was quickly able to pick up what Kim and I made, and worked with Stuart to finish the remaining features.

Kim:

I worked with Kim directly for a large amount of time when implementing the UI and Note/Sheet routes. She was able to implement everything that was asked of her, and was great about answering questions to any problems I encountered while implementing the Composer UI. She was especially helpful in making stylistic UI choices, such as the palette of colors to use for the Composer. Kim also provided a lot of much appreciated enthusiasm for the project; she truly loves our app idea and it shows in her work ethic.

Stuart:

Stuart was great to work with. Even though there were some issues with the codebase working on our machines but not his at first, he was able to figure it out quickly and fix the issue. He worked with Jessica to implement the user authentication and routing, with which they did a fantastic job. He was great at adapting to a rapidly shifting task load, as some of the workload was moved about.

What does Stuart think about...

Jessica:

Jessica was very busy during the early parts of our MVP implementation, but once she freed up, she contributed a lot of work towards the project, especially with some of the newer features. Although Jessica initially struggled with some of the routes methods, by the end of the MVP, her understanding has definitely improved.

Kim:

Kim finished all of her MVP work very early, which was really nice! She largely worked with Lisandro for specific parts of the project, so I cannot comment as much on her technical skills (although she seems very competent). Overall, great to work with!

Lisandro:

Lisandro also finished all of his MVP work very early. Similarly to my comments on Kim, Lisandro seems very competent, but I did not personally work with him much on the technical aspects. There was some confusion over the division of work, but we figured it out without any problems.

Evaluation

Overall, our MVP went very well - we completed all the parts we had in our Teamwork Plan, as well as some that we had planned to do for the demo. After talking with our TA, there are a few small modifications we should make in regards to RESTfulness and database representation. We were a little late for our internal deadline (24 hours in advance), but we still finished our MVP in plenty of time.

We could have been more ambitious and going forward plan to implement additional features we were not originally planning to, such as editing and deleting sheets/collaborators. For the MVP, we focused most of our efforts on functionality and getting a very primitive version of our web app working. Overall, we are pretty satisfied with the current state of our project. We have collectively spent a significant amount time just playing around and composing music with our app for fun, which we think is a good sign. For the next and final stages of our project, we will continue building out functionality and features for our web app, but will also focus more on developing an elegant user interface.

Lessons learned

We learned that MIDI in general does not have very good documentation and resources, which was surprising for such a widely used standard. Initially, we were planning on creating our own MIDI parser, but we ended up just going with a pre-built library after spending some time trying to learn the MIDI standard - we learned to not reinvent the wheel if the hard work has already been done. Along the same lines, we also reused the idea of using a canvas grid for UI, as opposed to other ideas we had.