

Risk Management

When conducting Sprint 1 for the Zrello project, our team had of course run into some problems. When we encountered these problems we tried our best to employ the risk monitoring and mitigation strategies that we had formed in the risk register.

Problem 1: Code not functioning properly

This project was the first time that any of our group members had attempted coding in HTML and JavaScript. However, this was unavoidable as the product that needs to be delivered is a web application. Thus, it was definitely expected that our code would not function as we intended it to. However, we had employed our monitoring and mitigation strategies. When one section of the code was completed, the team member would then carry out testing and debugging to find the source of the problem and fix it. In some cases, if the debugging was unfruitful, the team member would then seek the help of the other members to try and solve the issue. This allowed the team to carry on with the coding of this project even though we all had limited experience in this type of project.

Problem 2: Client requirement misunderstood

Although our team had regular meetings, we had misunderstood the client's requirements for the 1st Sprint. Thus, this caused us to try and work more and achieve more user stories than was needed. Since we already had limited experience, this had stretched us out and caused us to have very slow progress. It was only later that we clarified the actual deliverables for Sprint 1 and we realised that we were trying to achieve more than what was necessary. Thus, we then implemented the mitigation strategy of having a meeting and discussing what the actual requirements were. It was to our benefit that our progress was slow and we had not yet begun coding the portions which were not required. Thus, we were able to continue working on the sections of the code which were required for this sprint without having to worry about the other features.

Problem 3: Insufficient team expertise

One of the biggest problems that we had faced is that all of our team members had no expertise in designing a working web application. Thus, this caused a lot of time to be spent on learning the required knowledge to design the application. We tried our best to mitigate this problem by looking for as many avenues to learn the required knowledge as possible. One of these ways was by referring to example codes of working web applications to understand how the framework works. Although it was still time consuming, the team eventually managed to gain enough knowledge to complete the requirements for Sprint 1.

Problem 4: Overambition

One major issue that was, in a sense, self-imposed by the team unto ourselves. This would be our overestimating of the capabilities of our team members. When allocating tasks, it was understandable that the team tried to achieve much more than was expected for delivery by the end of the 1st sprint. However, this was not mainly an issue of underestimating the difficulty and complexity of the tasks set out for us but in fact the poor planning of the team. Our team has assigned appropriate user points to each task and planned out an estimated time of completion of each task. During the distribution of the task we forgot to take into account the increasing number of assignments that each member would be facing as the time was moving into the mid semester. Thus, there ended up being too many tasks to tackle with too little personal time. Our plan to mitigate this was to just drop the additional workload and only prioritise on the vital parts to be delivered. In light of this, the team was able to complete all the expected features to be demonstrated during the sprint review. On the other hand, the loose ends of the codes would be cumbersome to be dealt with especially when we return and forget what we were doing. Hence, from this experience, our team has learnt to humble ourselves and append just enough tasks into our upcoming sprints as to not overburden ourselves.

Problem 5: Slight lack of understanding of each member's expertise

This was a minor problem encountered by the team. There were some issues whereby some members were given tasks where they have no expertise in that field. However, due to the willingness of each member to learn and research topics that are unfamiliar, the issue was discovered quite late. Despite the team eventually learning of this hardship, it would have been more efficient to allocate these tasks to members more experienced in that field. Our action of mitigating this included other members providing aid to that member so that they can complete their task easily. This issue has been raised and discussed within the team and from this experience we learnt to be more open with each other. Upholding the willingness to mould oneself to suit the task is an admirable feat but we also need to be modest and acknowledge our shortcomings. Acknowledge our weaknesses but act upon proper judgement.