



Individual Report

Jonathan Caine

1 Job Role

1.1 Description

I feel that I have met my job description of Development Manager, outlined in section 2.3.5 of the QA manual well. I have been the primary contact for employees when they have had question or problems relating to the software processes, language/syntax adopted, environment problems, design and implementation of classes and/or the product. I have also reviewed code written by employees, and made suggestions/alterations where I've found it to deviate from the company coding standards, or has not been "best practice" for the language adopted. I have also carefully reviewed the software metrics on a regular basis, and raised any issues found at a subsequent group meeting. Finally I have worked closely with the Software Manager in supporting him in his role, to ensure that the software department were able to provide consistent advice and information.

2 Work Carried Out

2.1 Deliverables from Metrics

2.1.1 Quality Assurance Manual

After discussing with the group the practices, methodologies and processes that I felt relevant from my experience on placement in a software engineering company last year, they agreed they would like to adopt them for use on the project. Therefore I wrote section 4 (Project Management Methodology) of the QA manual, and helped explain and educate the group on those adopted.

I also wrote section 2.3.5 (Development Manager) of the QA manual, as this is the job description for my role.

2.1.2 Project Wide Standards Document

I attended the second inter-group PWS review meeting on behalf of the company, and ensured that the proposed changes did not have any adverse effects on our project/company. I also found a few small "loop" holes in version 0.5 of the PWS, and therefore contacted the relevant project managers to highlight these, and propose appropriate changes/clarifications. Finally I created a document titled "PWS V0.5 to V0.9 Changes" highlighting the new additions/changes that had been agreed upon, to inform the rest of the company of them, so that making changes to the XML parser and other code would be much easier for them.

2.1.3 Functional Specification

I contributed to the Functional Specification document, by jointly leading the company in the discussion and "discovery" (using behavioural discovery) of the features that the product should contain, alongside the Software Manager.

2.1.5 Inter-Group Contracts

I made suggestions regarding the level of support that we as a company should offer in our contracts to the third party, plus when and how to deliver these, and the final project to them. I also attended as many as possible of the negotiations between our company and others, so as to support the Project Manager from a software perspective.

2.1.6 Testing & Integration Plans & Reports

As the company had chosen to adopt the testing and integration methods/plans that I had proposed, I spent time with the Testing and Integration Manager ensuring that he fully understood the procedures, and would be in a position to provide support to others. I also reviewed the associated documentation regularly, and proposed changes where I thought applicable.

2.1.7 Example Multimedia Presentations

After conducting a spike into XML, schemas, and DTD files, I felt I had a thorough understanding of what was required in the playlists. I therefore went ahead and wrote an "Example_PWS_Playlist.xml" that incorporated as many of the different features, both required and optional, as possible so that we as a company had a bench mark to work towards throughout the project. I also updated this several times, to reflect changes in the PWS, and additional features of our own that were added to the product.

2.1.9 Demonstration & Sales Presentation

I assisted the Project Manager and Finance Manager with the tender presentation, by filming and editing the video used at the end of our presentation. I also contributed to the group review of the presentation as a whole.

2.1.10 Source Code

I contributed a lot to the source code, although often indirectly by assisting other group members with their design and/or implementation decisions and questions, for user stories assigned to them. I also jointly "designed" the architecture of the product as it evolved alongside the Software Manager, for example creating the "GUI Design" document (designed specifically for easy use/reuse of code).

I also took on many of the more challenging tasks and problems that arose, due to my experience in the relevant areas. I pair programmed with the Software Manager, for many of the more complex class implementations and refactors, although also with other employees who needed support so that they could gain experience.

2.2 Additional Work

2.2.1 Utilities

I have provided a lot of additional support to the Utilities Manager, fielding a lot of the initial enquires for him, which provided a more consistent first point of contact to other employees for and issues/problems. Due to various constraints and my experience in the relevant areas, I have covered the majority of the work for both Jira and GitHub,

although also providing additional training to the Utilities Manager so that he may gain the experience necessary to be able to do this for future projects.

2.2.2 Testing and Integration

I have worked closely with the Testing and Integration Manager, often helping him to field queries from employees, and covering his role occasionally when he has been unavailable.

3 Conclusion

3.1 Self-Critique

The area I am most disappointed with myself in, is that I did not get to spend more time actually working on the source code directly. Due to the mixed programming ability of the group, I spent a lot of time fielding questions and problems from other members of the group. Although this is a large part of my job role, I feel that I should have put some sort of system in place, so that the more simple problems/questions such as environment configuration problems could have been fielded by others with enough knowledge/experience (possibly the Utilities Manager), leaving my time more free for the more complex and time consuming issues.

3.2 Evaluation of Contribution

Although I've occasionally wavered when deadlines for other modules have approached, I have always tried to make up the extra time either beforehand or subsequently. I've put in a lot of extra hours at several points during the project; at the beginning when Jira required setting up (which unfortunately went wrong several times), when nearing internal iteration deadlines so as to try and catch up on outstanding work from others before the deadlines passed, and in the last few weeks of the project when several final deadlines were approaching.

Overall I feel that I have definitely contributed more than was required of me for my job role, and have been consistent with putting in the required hours each week, but also happy to do any extra work as and when was required.