<u>Lessons Learned</u>

Communication and planning is key

- Working on a project with several people requires communication, especially with conflicting schedules. Planning ahead and having group discussions helps make everything run smoothly.

- Planning is essential in order to stay on time with a project. Working with people of different skills requires proper delegation of tasks.

SpringBoot is a powerful web development framework

- Using SpringBoot for this project was initially challenging, but after learning how the framework operates, development quickly gained speed.

- By using SpringBoot and becoming familiar with the framework, we learned how popular of a framework SpringBoot is in many tech fields.

Things that went well:

- Finding documentation for the framework was surprisingly easy

- Goals set during weekly status updates were almost always met by the next weekly status update.

- Implementing new features was initially challenging, but completing them was always rewarding.

Take advantage of online tools to streamline workflow

- Github, Diagrams.net, and Baeldung.com were extremely helpful in collaborating on this project, building visual diagrams, and identifying solutions to problems encounters.

- Discord, Microsoft Teams and Jira were instrumental in coordinating team efforts and communicating ideas

You must be flexible

- Working on this project required us to learn a new framework in order to implement the requirements of the project. We had to have an open-mind and learn something new in order to accomplish our goal.

Setting goals and tracking progress is very important

- By setting weekly workflow goals, we were able to better able to ensure that we would make the project deadline and surpass many project milestones prior to the deadlines we initially set.

Things that could be improved:

- While SpringBoot is a powerful web development framework, the steep learning curve proved extremely challenging for those who have recently begun to learn Java

- PHP or a more traditional web development framework would lower the barrier for entry for students who do not already have a strong web development background