

Jacques Troussard  
Dr. Karen Anewalt  
CPSC430 Fall 2017  
Fri Dec 8<sup>th</sup>  
Reflective Essay

For the very first time in my life, I believe I have been apart of a successful development process. The Agile development style at first appeared to be an extremely burdensome system of constant repetition. In addition to this, I was also initially skeptical with regards to the number of phases, particularly the planning and requirements stage. These in fact proved to be the most important parts of the project. With their successful implementation the actual development phase was very smooth and rather free of any major stress. This was clearly due to the precise planning, requirement reevaluations and, keeping the coding modules to their smallest deliverable state.

In my time at college I have developed two unexpected skills which even at my have I seem to have been lacking. These two skills were extremely vite to the success of this project. The first skill is having learned to learn on my own. I have always seemed to be able to get the gist of things rather easily. Unfortunately this caused me to retreat from an concept that seemed to require any in-depth learning. Also I have also felt that I needed a lot of direction to get through major projects. My years spent in college have helped me navigate resources and actually find reward in coming back to questions unanswered and figuring them out for myself. As for how this was applied to this software development project, it was very useful during the actual development phase as my JavaScript and front-end (bootstrap) knowledge were VERY limited. In short order I built my own invoice factory module with my own JavaScript functions to help wire my front and back end parts seamlessly. The second skill I was able to apply was interpersonal group skills. Normally before I had honed this skill I was either far to willing to submit to all the lame jobs and never speak up, or the opposite where I would end up in confrontation with supers or project leaders. I've been able to find my happy medium and it's been pretty useful for this project.

Most of my problems with this project were related to out side of school issues. On top of unforeseen events taking my out of state there were other events which added a great deal of stress and depression for me this semester. Ultimately I was able to over come these issues by communicating with my group members. We were able to modify the schedule and we also added additional buffer times to account for these sort of things.

Web application development, for me, always seemed as the less respected concentration in the field of computer science. After taking three full stack inspired classes I have fully reversed my opinion on the matter. Even if it is true in the industry, personally I find there are few things more rewarding then sewing a dozen technologies together, flipping the on switch, and watching a project successfully launch. Cloud computing and finding way to tie this in with AI are areas I would be very interested in becoming more involved with.

This experience hasn't changed the direction of my post-graduation plans as much as it has opened my mind to a much wider range of possibilities. Initially only interested in hard computer science or software development, now the idea of web development seems very interesting to me. In fact all the other jobs revealed from this development process has given me more exposure to what opportunities exist in the field.