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CSEE 2210

25 April 2019

Where We Are Taking The Project Next

After we complete the project, there are many ways we could go with the mirror given our roles. My role as the manager would be very necessary in order to go forward if we were to make the product an actual marketable item.

Testing:

The first thing that would have to be done is likely more testing to ensure the product functions as we want it to. As the software engineer/manager this is definitely my department. This is because the mirror, although a fairly sophisticated piece of hardware, has a lot of software in it that makes it run. I would most likely have to work on many aspects of the software from the mirror code that makes it display to the Google software that we implemented in order to allow users to interact with the Google Artificial Intelligence. However, the code that we put on the raspberry pi was certainly stable and launched well, we just did not have as much time to test the software as I would have liked. Along with testing all of the software components, as the manager, I would also ensure that we test the sturdiness of the mirror more as it will hung or placed inside the wall and we do not want anything damaged. Even though the sturdiness is Jeff’s (the hardware engineer) job, I would like to sit down with him to ensure that everything is as we need it to be as well as to learn more about what he is doing.

Added Features:

The main part that I would be working on is the communication between the two. For the most part, I would want the product to have more features than we were able to get onto the mirror this time around. For instance, I would make sure that the mirror changed screens and displayed information if the user asked for it to. There was not enough time in the semester to get to this point; however, I believe it would be of great benefit. This can be seen through the fact that the mirror was designed to help those with Obsessive Compulsive Personality Disorder. The best way to ease the symptoms of the disorder these people have is to get as close as we can to having the mirror be fully functional and able to display and do almost anything anyone could ask it to do. This would take a long time due to the amount of work that is required to get to the perfection that people may demand; however, I believe that it is achievable. In the end, the goal for the product is to have it do as much as possible to help the user in their daily lives and I believe that in the time allotted, we achieved that goal and certainly have work to build on from there. Along with working on the software, as the manager, I would ensure that Muskan, the data analyst, were always there to make sure that everything I was doing was right for the customer. This is because Muskan did a majority of the research on the Obsessive-Compulsive Personality Disorder and she would know what is best to ensure the user does not have any complications using the product. This is important because the disorder revolves around unreachable perfection and as such, every detail needs to be as close to perfection as is possible. As the manager, I would ensure that this is the first priority for the group. Along with this, I will make sure that we stay on track to have the mirrors done and perfected as soon as we can.

Finally:

In the end of perfecting the mirror, the goal would be to find any manufacturers ready to produce the mirror for us as well as communicate all of the needs that we have to any other people that we use to manufacture the mirrors. That is far down the road, though it would definitely not hurt to think about. After everything is complete on the mirror as well as the manufacturing it would be time to think about the marketing of the product in order to make sure that it does sell. The plan here is to market it toward people with Obsessive-Compulsive Personality Disorder as well as everyone else because this product really could help anyone and any company in their right mind would be trying to get as much money as is possible.

Conclusion:

During the running of this project, I certainly learned a lot about managing a team. During my time as manager and software developer, I learned many things about the roles that I will carry with me on my path into the future. These lessons include the following for each role:

Software Developer:

* Do not leave the rest of the team in the dark about what you are coding as there may be specific requirements that the user may need that you are not thinking about and you need to consider this as the highest priority.
* Make sure to layout what you are doing before proceeding as not doing so could lead to an abundance of problems in the future; whereas it is very simple to do a layout and plan ahead.

Manager:

* I realized that even if you are working with your friends or anyone like that, you cannot be extremely lenient just because you know them, or they will not believe they need to put in a strong effort.
* It is a smart idea to layout a time table of places in the project as you go along to ensure that you stay on track for the end date and have something good to present to the class.

Conclusion:

Through this project, I have learned and thought a lot about what I plan on doing the same and differently in the future and it was certainly a great experience to learn more about everything.