

A reflection of your top three lessons learned from the project experience. The lessons can be in terms of specifications, design, planning, teaming, execution, etc. What worked exceptionally well and what would you do differently next time?

1. Stick to the schedule!

This project taught us a lot about the importance of time management. Though we are all busy with other classes and commitments, it is important that we do our best to stick to the schedule that we planned at the beginning of the project. We ended up getting behind and cramming the few days before a due date. If we had devoted just a little time every single day, we feel that we could have avoided these stressful situations. One thing that worked well for us were Google Hangouts. We often found it difficult to find a meeting time for all seven of us, so participating in a Google Hangout was a convenient way for all seven of us to touch base without having to physically meet on campus. Also, we found that we were much more productive when all of us could get together, as oppose to just a subset of the group.

2. It is worth using GitHub the right way, although it may be frustrating to learn.

Our group had some issues using Github because we were not familiar with the system. Instead of setting everything up the right way from the start and using forks, we were all working from the same repository, which is bound to cause problems. Eventually, we took the time to set our repositories up the right way and were able to use GitHub the right way. This made our lives much easier in the end.

3. Finalize architecture as much as possible beforehand.

We ended up having to change our schema several times throughout the development process. This was frustrating because we add to update several lines of code each time we did this, which resulted in us wasting time. Looking back, our group wishes we had considered more cases and further discussed the schema we would need so as to avoid the frustrating changes we had to make.

4. Meet up with EVERYONE as much as possible

We didn't think that missing one or two people from our meetings was going to slow us down until we actually were all working together. There were times when we had three people doing the same thing without knowing it which essentially wasted a day. When we were all together for 7+ hours at a time we were able to bounce off questions to each other and become much more productive.