Hardik Kansara

Individual Report

Database Evaluator

Document history

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Version | Date | Author | Changes | Valid from |
| 1.0 | 10-Oct-2016 | Hardik Kansara |  |  |

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# Introduction

I have prepared this report based on my personal opinions, perspectives and views on the project experience. I have try to cover the failures, achievements and what knowledge I gained during the project work.

I tried to describe fairly what I think I did well and what I think I didn’t do well. How all the project members did their best in project?

The relationships in the project team and how they work as team to achieve team’s common goals.

# Reflections on the project experience

The journey for the project started when I have proposed Robert about the database evaluator project and he approved my project proposal.

After 13 weeks, now I can say, yes, as a team we have successfully completed the project and achieve whatever we had decided in beginning.

This project was challenging because it involve 80% work focused on SQL Server database. As an experienced database administrator and as I have proposed this project, I am clear what will be outcome of the project but it’s more challenging to find a team members who want to work on this type of project.

But at the end we have a team of four members and first three weeks it’s difficult for me to explain them what we need to achieve at end of the project. Since we all have different background and experience in IT, it’s more difficult so build a confidence about this project.

We were in the bad shape in first three weeks because we have to find and change the methodology which align as per our requirement. We can not proceed with any methodology because our project is custom and contains website and desktop application both. We don’t have client so it increase the responsibility of each team members.

Project was confusing for my project advisor in first couple of meetings. I was depressed after heard from Steve that he was not clear what we are going to do during this project ? He was not clear with our objectives for this project. But he is ready to support us and advise us so we can achieve all the objectives of the project. He cleared instruct us in second meeting, still you have next 10 weeks to do your best with project so don’t let your moral down and come up with something interesting.

Now I and team have decided that we will work hard, put our best efforts and try to give our best to achieve goals. I try to keep motivate the team because I know, journey will be more difficult if team lose their confidence.

We did well in first audit but still I found lack of problems in documents and the way we working for project. Creating and managing project documents was primary responsibility of Matt but he was missed something. But he was late to identify before first audit and we lose some marks in first audit.

In the team meeting after the audit, Matt has accepted and take the responsibilities for whatever went wrong with documents and he has ensure us that he will try his best not to repeat the same mistake again. I have also supported him during that critical time because I realized that it was not his mistake, it was a team mistake that we have not look at the document part. Creating needed document and support Matt in creating management documents was individual responsibility too. We agreed and understood this.

Project was moved smoothly in next couple of weeks and we had a next audit in pipeline. We all worked very hard because we have to prove that we are improved from last Audit.

We were focused on requirement and analysis document and at this phase, after creating and updating requirement analysis document, Steve is happy, understood and finally agreed with us on the project objectives. This gave more confidence to individual and I am personally feel happy because now everyone, including project members and your project advisor were finally happy and project is in good shape.

Project team and project advisor were confused in first three weeks, may be because I think I was not a good speaker who explained them about project in better way which I realised later. But time has gone and may be my mistake and weakness is overcome by time itself.

Project team was so busy because we all have to create lots of documents before second audit. I have assigned and give responsibility to individual for document because I though this was the only way to achieve the best result.

Everyone was worked hard because we have to prove that we are best in next Audit and yes, we did it. We got the full marks for the second audit and this was the result of the team efforts. Everyone was so happy and this kind of positive situation we were looking because I personally knew that it will help to motivate the team.

Matt is little bit worried and discussed about project schedule with us. He is always worried about objectives, documents and deliverables. He always push individual very hard because he has some objectives for project which were fixed in his mind and many times I told him that don’t be hard. But that the Matt.

Robert told us to focus on product for next four weeks in second audit and we start working hard for product. Patrick has everything ready but he wanted me to completing scripts soon. Sometimes it is very hard for me to explain Patrick that creating script is hard and to combine them together, testing are tougher task then he is thinking.

I completed scripts but now Patrick and Knino have to show their expertise to the team and they did it well. Client application, developed by Patrick was good but I have suggested couple of changes and he was agreed with me to modify it. That’s the Patrick, sometimes I need to guide him and support him. We were agreed on some point and sometimes not, but finally we took the team opinion in team meeting for some of the topic. Same with Kwino, he is good with website but he wanted guidance and direction to move. I can not focus on both at the same time so I asked Matt to help Kwino for layout and design.

Steve has raised very strict comments in advisor meeting. First, think about security of file while transmitting on network and second, don’t capture database name anywhere in your report or file. Customer will never happy with that. He has suggested this two recommendation based on his professional experience. Team was shocked because we had never think about this and now its extra challenge for us to work on it.

Patrick was worried because he did not knew how to implement encryption for file. Kwino was worried because he also did not have any idea about secure transferring of file. I have suggested one idea in team meeting, why cannot we encrypt the file with basic functionality of .net ? And while customer want to download the report, he will get the link for download page directly on register email. We found the solution and Steve was happy with it.

We all worked hard four weeks and now finally product was ready. But still Kwino wanted some time as he was facing problem while uploading website live. He has tried so many things but it was not working for him. He was upset and asked me, can we use local one? I said yes, but he knew already that I wanted to see website live. It took complete three days for him to work hard to make the website live and solve all the issues while making website live but he did it. And Now I am happy because website is live before system testing.

Matt was in charge of system testing and he is strict about his testing. He has created so many test cases and test plan already. He was so good with his documents. I need to appreciate him for his hard work for documents.

Steve was happy with our test result, product and our efforts to success this project. He has appreciate us in the last advisor meeting. We were really happy to have an advisor like Steve.

Last phase of project was started with Academic hand over and creating some more documents. We all completely forgot to add this in our project plan, we had not think about this in beginning of the project. It is not mistake of anyone simply we all forgot. But Matt has did again a good job, he planned it very well and update it in project plan.

The journey with the project will be officially over on 17th October 2016, the day when we have to hand over the documents and waiting for panel interview.

# Project team relationships

I have had no real problems with any team members and advisor respectively. I have probably been impatient when project was in bad shape in beginning and we were behind the schedule in between of the project.

The relationship between each team members have been productive. We’ve had our highs and low but I think we have been mostly successful with what we set out to achieve.

Team members have discussed the work that needed to be done, who wanted to do what job and then we’d work on the assigned jobs.

When either of us weren’t sure of anything, we’d run our thoughts past each other and see if we could fix the uncertainty ourselves. If we didn’t know or understand we would speak to advisor after making an attempt ourselves.

The low point of the team relationship was the arguing over the website functionality and evaluator report. Admittedly I could have done better preventing the argument.

May be my mistake was not explaining the things clearly because might be I am not good speaker. But every time team agreed, trust me and they are happy to see the result at the end.

There was always argument with Matt because he always worried about deliverable on deadline and I, always expecting more at technical level. But each time coordination between me and Matt worked and together as a team we handled both deliver and technical challenges as well.

Patrick was good at technical level but sometimes I need to help him to think and see the situation in different way. He always argue with me that sometimes it is hard to implement some of the things and sometimes you need time for R&D and I am always asking him to go beyond the boundaries of technical stuff. But at the end he agreed on some of the point that why I am looking and asking him to do so. But sometimes I need to understand the time limits as well.

Kwino was so good with his research techniques. I learn research skill from him. He has always something to read and something to learn. He has not worked with wordpress before and don’t have experience, how to live the wordpress website but he asked me 1 week time to study on it and he did it.

All over we did well. Team efforts and team work are the key for success of this project. We all knew this important point from beginning from the project. We even all knew that we all are different and may be our thoughts will not be same but if we work together in one direction then we will achieve the result.

Ups and downs are always there in project time but trust on each other was there who help us to survive.

# Lessons learned from the project

Personally I learned a lot from this project.

First, you can solve any problem with better communication mechanism.

Second, you need friend rather colleague to whom you can trust.

Third, coordination on right time is key to deliver your best in team.

Four, sometimes you need advisor like Steve how can give his expert advice and you don’t have to think twice on it. You have to work on it only.

Team is not make by the persons who work together. Team is make by the personas who trust each other.

# Conclusions

I have had a fairly positive experience with project and have learnt a lot as I went through the project process. I would have preferred a successful outcome in terms of delivering a fully functional products as per the requirements we had set in the beginning of the project.

# Recommendations

I would recommend that:

A quick reference guide, with the most important tips and tools for doing project work, solving team disputes and recording the important information is built and distributed to future students. This will help guide the students to make effective decisions quickly and not have to tailspin solving problems.

The proposal in the real world wins or loses the project contract and must be of a high standard. To get students to produce a professional proposal they must get the practice in. As well as practicing meeting that run on agendas, so that the meeting can take shape and be productive more quickly.

If small problems arise, deal with them immediately, ask your team-mates what is wrong and try to answer their questions.

Build a plan with your advisor, think about the planning documentation you will need for the project and cover all areas where your project goes from development tools, to integrations, add-ons and any other possible areas you can think of. Then run the plan past the client to get any extras. If you define the project as much as you can in the beginning you can save lots of work in the middle and end.