IM3080 Design and Innovation Project (AY2021/22 Semester 1)

Individual Report

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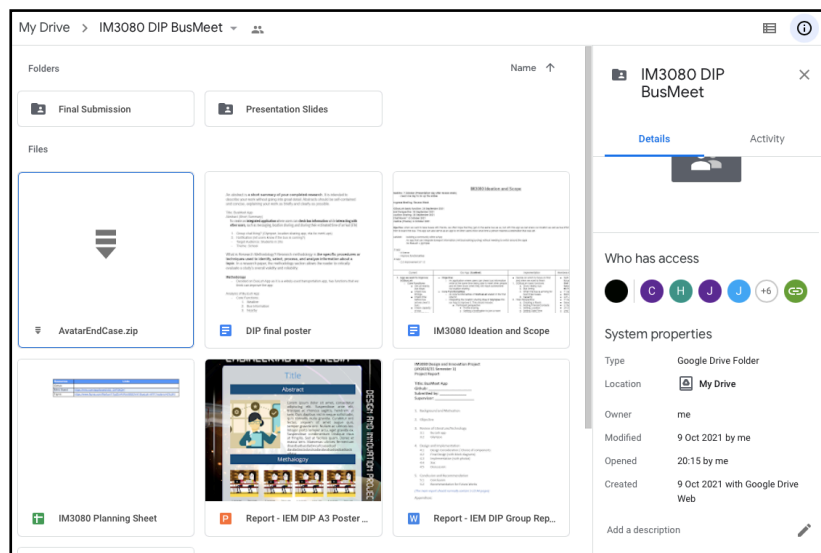
Group No: 4

Project Title: BusMeet

Contributions to the Project

Administration

Previously, all the documents created on Google (Google Docs and Google Slides) were shared within the group through links and it was difficult to track which edits were done by who as the members were labelled as 'Anonymous _____' except for the owner of the document. Hence, I decided to consolidate all the documents needed in a Google Drive and sent invitations to each group member so that their contributions will be shown explicitly. The consolidation of documents within the drive also allows the members to find the documents they needed easily without having to scroll through our chat looking for the shared link.
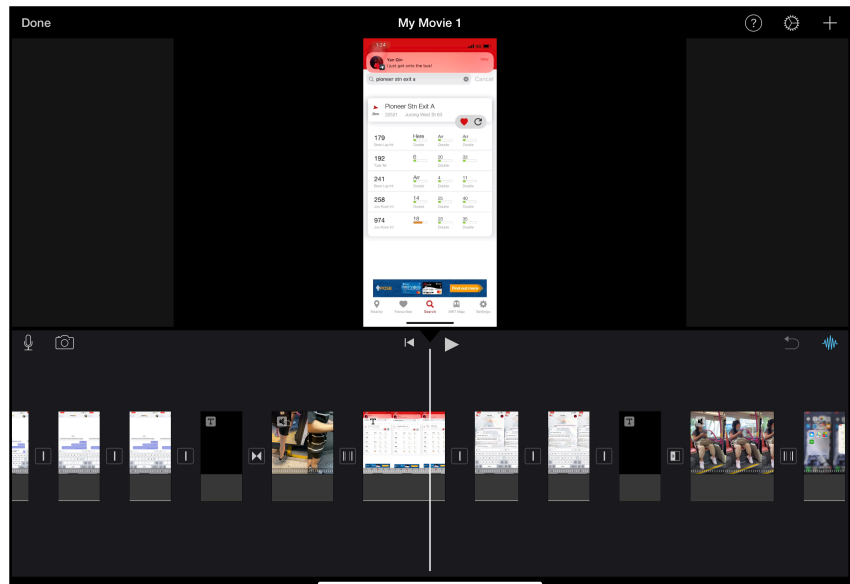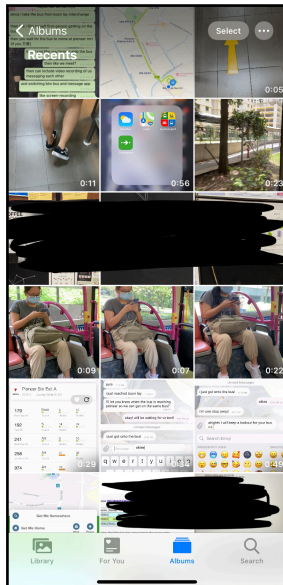

Presentation Slides

For every formal presentation, I will help to include the content needed in the slides as well as made sure that all the formatting, for example, the size and type of fonts used and the alignment, was standardised so that the slides would look neat during the presentation. Also for the Week 8 presentation, I volunteered to help create the slides first and plan our presentation flow.

Idea Generation

Personally, I downloaded multiple similar applications other than our reference application and tried to analyse the design and features our group could implement. During the first few weeks, we split into two teams to ideate the base functions for our application and I was allocated to the 'Report/Weather' team. In the discussion, I contributed by sharing examples of how other applications presented the same features. However, the feature was later dropped as our group decided to focus on the more crucial features.

Video-making

When discussing how we should go about producing the video for the final submission, I volunteered to film a scenario video in person with Serena while Li Swen went on with the animated video. I came up with the flow of the video and arranged to meet up with Serena before our class in school and filmed the process. After filming, I selected the clips needed and edited them with iMovie.

Coding with ReactNative

When our group finalised on the different features we needed on the applications, we were split into different teams and I was placed in the team to implement the host perspective which included features like creating the meetup (setting date and time) and adding friends to the meetup. Serena and I looked through tutorials and documents to aid in our coding together. However, we only manage to push out a static page with the format we wanted but was unable to function properly. The feature was then completed with the help of Melville.

Reflection on Learning Outcome Attainment

Point 1: Communication / Individual and Teamwork

Just like many of my other members, it is the first time that I am working on a project in such a big group of 11 people. The number of members made it hard to arrange for a fixed meeting time that everyone was free at. Not only that, we were grouped together from smaller groups and hence were unfamiliar with each other at the start. Also, with the COVID-19 situation, we could only communicate through online platforms and hence, this resulted in many members being lost and not speaking up. Some members would be doing things on their own and only inform the group when they are done so we were unsure of each other's progress. Unfortunately, I was one of the members that were lost at the start and did not dare to speak up. I could not contribute much at the start of the project as I was juggling with other modules as well as some family issues. Our group's communication problem was later highlighted in one of the formal presentations when it was evident that our group was lagging in progress as compared to other groups. However, this problem was later solved when I was talking about the problem with another member in person and as a group, we had a meeting to open up about our problems and plan out how we should continue with the project. In the later stage of the project, I tried to make up for my lack of contribution by speaking up and giving opinions when needed to help improve our project submission. I was also more proactive in volunteering to help contribute tasks to my ability. This project taught me to be more proactive when participating in such a big group project even if I feel shy and I should not hide responsibilities just because we are separated by our screens as the COVID-19 situation isn't ending soon and we will have to learn to work on projects together online in the future at workplaces.

Point 2: Modern Tools Usage

Through this project, I was exposed to different tools like using Figma to create wireframe prototypes of our applications, the ReactNative framework to code, Github to collaborate and many others. Tools that I was already familiar with included Google Drive for collaboration and iMovie for editing videos. My biggest takeaway will be being able to experiment with the ReactNative framework and coding with JavaScript. While I still learning and not the most confident in coding in JavaScript, this project taught me the possibilities and potential of creating an application with ReactNative and I do hope this experience will aid me if given the chance to create softwares in the future. iMovie is a simple tool that I was familiar with using to edit videos and through this project, I was introduced to Powtoon by Li Swen to create an animated video. While I did not have a chance to play around with Powtoon, I will be interested to continue exploring it after the project to create videos. This project introduced me and allowed me to experiment with different tools that may aid me in the future in school or at work. I hope to learn from my experience and the difficulties I faced when using these tools and apply these lessons in the future.