# Lab 1

On Feb. 10, 2021, I participated in a group discussion of about 20 members. The aim of our discussion was to decide what kind of App that we want to build. At the beginning of the event, some of the team members did not know what we supposed to do with this activity. We need someone to break the ice, here's one said to everyone that he was thinking about an App that he saw from a google movie. Then another one proposed an idea that we can develop an algorithm that outputs your current location and a list of ATMs' locations in that area. The goal of this App is to get you the closest ATM to your location. But immediately someone responded that every banking App already has a locator, and we can just do a public bathroom locator by using an API. To do that, our group could break into a front-end team and a back-end team. Someone responded to this, "yo, just walk into a restaurant in the city and ask them to let you use the bathroom." "Hey, some places won't let you use their bathroom without paying." Another one said. Later, someone suggested a public parking locator, and another one proposed an App to find where to throw out certain garbage like batteries or electronics…Ten minutes later, our group still did not reach consensus. Everyone has his own idea, so it was difficult to have consensus of opinion. After some heated discussion, most of us agreed to choose a Universal ATM locator as our final project, and our team would split into three sub teams: client-side team, back-end team, and front-end team. Client-side team would be responsible for designing search filter index by query for fees, distance, and bank type. Back-end team would create cloud repository with DAO to perform our queries due to ease of access for users. But hybrid hosting was discussed as another option as well. Specifics on database used, numbers of VMs and server/application VMs and firewalls were not discussed yet. And front-end team would design good UI/UX allowing users to select from a number of options. However, we had no time to allocate tasks for everyone.

During this discussion, members went with their preferred mode of communication. Some chatted over voice many ideas were being proposed and some discussed in text chats with the conversation changing depending on which idea in each was the current topic. Overall, there's something that was not working as a team, such as inefficient use of meeting time, and not having an established and clear meeting purpose. Although decision-making process was slow and open conflict in discussion existed, this group discussion has encouraged us to consider different thoughts and ideas. It broadened our mind, furthers understanding, enhanced more effective and efficient brainstorm, and stressed mutual respect in the group. Moreover, group projects can help us develop a host of skills that are increasingly important in the professional world.

In a team, everyone has their own thoughts and ideas and can offer a different perspective to look at the problem. More ideas will be generated, and productivity will also increase due to the motivation that is provided by the team members. During the discussion, collect all the ideas that were proposed and then choose the best one or connect some of the ideas together to produce a better one. Besides that, teamwork can also increase communication between team members. Communication is extremely important for a team to work well. But I enjoy working on my tasks as an individual as well, since in many ways it takes the ability to work alone for the team to fully succeed. Most of time, teamwork and communication speed up the entire process and make it easier to produce anything. However, Individual work is better when the task in hand requires high concentration and focus. Group work can cause a lot of unnecessary interruptions by other team members.