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Self Reflection Project Work

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1 Introduction

This report is a short self reflection about the group programming project in Java applicaiton programming course. The project lasted about one month. Our group consisted of four persons, all from the DV undergraduate program. The oral presentation was a short end of project presentation of the finished product. The specification of the presentation are given in detail on the course homepage.

2 Project Work General

I am in general satisfied with my performance for project work in this specific project. I was sticking to the schedule that was decided in the beginning and during the project I felt that I can judge quite realiably the time individual tasks will take for me to finish. My current situation is that I have a 50% job as a programmer, remote for a german company. While I would have the flexibility to adapt my working hours, I found this rather difficult. It's easier for me to have a daily routine which usally goes like University in the morning, work in the afternoon and additional study time in the evening. This was also the mode during this project. However, it happend rather often in the afternoon, that I anyway switched to the project as I knew that the others are working with it. Or even when I could see that new commits drop in on the repo. I realized that this might be a difficulty for me: It is always tempting to spend more time on work that pays off immediately. In terms of this project, we advanced very quick with enjoyable visual and audible rewards through our really cool game. So it was easy to work on it, while my pay job is sometimes a bit more of a long shot until I get a reward in terms of a new implemented feature (that is, based on the type of software we develop, still not as flashy as a computer game). I don't think that discipline is my weak side, but I can definitively see how it is an ongoing process where one always have to work on himself to be efficient.

3 Teamwork in Project

Teamwork in this project was a blast. We had so much fun and even organized two dinner evenings for the whole group. It was nice to see how our different skills and interest formed a nice group and made me looking forward to actually go to university and sit together with the others instead of coding remote and communicate on chat. The most striking thing that I realized was an obvious weakness of mine when it comes to taking the leader role in group work. We were lucky enough to have one student that has already a degree in IT managment. It was an easy choice to determine this student as the general project manager. It was interesting for me, because otherwise, I often happen to end up in this role, probably because I consider myself rather proactive and I have easy to communicate with others. However, I also often feel a large burden as project leader when it comes to assigning tasks to team members. Basically, I often put down a lot of thought not just what I should do but also what all the others should/could do. In this project, the project manger simply listed the open tasks and asigned them sequently, without any preferences on all team members. When I saw this, I realized that I often spend too much time on figuring out who could do what instead of simpl assigning so that everybody can start to work. If problems show up, tasks can still be shifted amonst team members. I'm curious how this insight will turn out for me when I will have the project manager role next time. Otherwise, I can just say that

everyone in our group was just great, going in 200% for the project and I had the impression that everyone really enjoyed that feeling of being a little bit closer now to how 'realworld' industry IT project work really happens.

4 Oral Presentation

I have generally little problems to do oral presentations. This is also due to my former job as a researcher where I often was giving lectures, research presentations or spoke at journal clubs. For me, usually oral presentation is a bit of a freestyle thing. I don't prepare presentations into the last detail and try to react then also a bit on the crown or how the time situation plays out. Now the freestyle thing is a bit of a disadvantage when doing the presentation together with three other presenters that might have completely different preferences. I realized that for the project presentation, I probably had a bit a bad influence to the others as I tend tone down the need of too rigorous preparations for the presentation. On the other side, I also felt that the requirements for the oral presentation given on the homepage were rather slopy, not very detailed. However, I still think that we performed reasonably for our presentation. My largest handicap was that only two days before the presentation, I completely lost my voice due to a cold. This was however good, as there were some team members that are maybe a bit less comfortable with speaking in front of crowds. Like this, they were forced to take a bit a larger share of the presentation and they did well.