Start off on the right foot

Introduction

This postmortem is focused on the first sprint of the project. This includes majoritarily to complete the documentation and the vision of the creation of Elevate Network, a social network platform, before starting to build it in the next sprints. ERP stands for Enterprise Resource Planning which is a type of software that companies use to manage some tasks such as project management and risk management.

Our expectations as a team for this project is to successfully fulfill all the criterias required and to have a final product that could potentially be used if it was put in the market. Thus, the documentation is important to put our head into it and to set the base of our project before diving into it.

We believe the final results for sprint 1 is well done and a good start for the rest of the project. Website wise, we have the bare minimum. The login and profile page has been set up using javascript, html, and css. There is still a lot of work to be done for the next sprints.

What went wrong

1 - Timing

Some of the tasks overlapped with each other. For example, the running prototype had to be tested too for sprint 1. The person who had to work on the testing would not have enough time to implement it depending on when the person who codes the prototype finished.Thus, since the running prototype took a bit more time to be done, the tester had less time to do his part.

The person who did the prototype tried to do it as fast as possible when told. To mitigate this problem for future sprint, we should organize the project so that everyone has enough time to do their part. Thus, we should identify the tasks that overlap early on.

2 - Testing

Since none of us had done testing before, there was a learning curve to be done in sprint 1 to implement unit tests. This impacted the testing quality as it was our first time. Additionally, there wasn't as much time left as mentioned above.

The people working on testing did their best and will apply their knowledge on the next sprints. However, we should all learn to do testing to ease the process for the next sprints and be able to help each other. Also, learning can always be done outside of the project too, to come prepared.

3 - Miscommunication

Since we were a big group, we had to assign individual tasks to everyone. Thus, each of us was taking care of one part of the project, and we ended up not necessarily discussing with the others about our own part. In consequence, we only looked at each other when it was done. Not everyone had the same vision for the project, thus not everyone was satisfied with what was done. What should have been done is have a discussion of what the whole team would be expecting from each part and assign it to each individual afterwards.
Although this was not a huge problem since the work was always done we should have asked people to check our work more frequently to be aware if it was up to everyones standards and expectations.

4 - Uncertainties with guidelines

Since we wanted to deliver quality work we had many questions about how to do our work to meet the exact specification requirements. This caused us to have some delays in relation to finalizing some aspects of our work as we wanted to wait to meet with our supervisor before we completed that work.
The impact of this problem was not large because we moved on to other work while we waited for our questions to be answered but it did cause us to rework our initial work plan to not fall behind. We were able to mitigate this problem by asking the specific questions we wanted answered in detail to feel sure of our work and also focus on other aspects of our project during our wait. A better way to go about this would have been to extensively read through all documents and then ask most of our questions right away to cause the least amount of delays and we would have been able to do our work in a more seamless fashion.

5 - Availabilities

As a team of 9 people, it is evident that not everyone will always be available at the same time every week. Indeed, we each have other personal activities such as different courses, work, other projects and deadlines. In consequence, it was difficult to find a common time to meet and discuss the project for soen390 and find common ground.
To address this issue, we asked everyone to input their availability on an application. This allowed us to see when everyone would be available at the same time. As a start, we think this is the best we can do, and eventually, if it does not work anymore, we will have to find another solution together.

What went right

1 - Task distribution

In any project, it is important to define the tasks and to distribute them accordingly. For us, this happened through a call. Everyone was able to attribute themselves a task that fitted their own skills and it was distributed equally in the team, which is fair for everyone.
For now, the task distribution went really well and there is nothing to be added.

2 - Responsiveness

In a project with many people we need to be aware of what is happening to be on top of work and to avoid errors and delays as much as possible, this was possible in our team due to responsiveness to each other.
Team members were diligent when it came to answering each other's questions and communicating to each other about needs and opinions so we were always aware of what work was being done. We were also quick in telling eachother information of what needed to be done and needed to be asked to our supervisors. A way we could do this better is by updating our task charts more frequently but because we message often enough this does not seem like a large issue.

3 - Time Management

To avoid delays and be able to reach the deadlines of our project with quality, work time management is essential to have otherwise things can be very unorganized and cause friction between team members.
In our team, we met regularly to update each other of where we were at with our parts and gave ourselves deadlines to meet before our next meeting, and we all were able to manage our work and meet our deadlines as we wanted. To address any problems with our time management we would help others finish their work if they needed so they would not fall behind and cause the group to fall behind as well. Next time it would be better if we talked about anticipated delays or problems that we had in this sprint that could be avoided in the next one.

4 - Non Working authorization

The state of the user when authenticated wasn't shared with the other pages. Because of that, an authorization process was impossible to create. The problem was solved by creating a middleware function that uses the context api which wraps our application in order to create context for our authentication system and users.

5 - Persistent authentication

When users are logged in, they get navigated to the user profile. However, if the page refreshes, they get redirected to the homepage, this happens since our user session is not stored in browser storage and as soon as refreshed, a new session is created which redirects the user to the homepage. In order to solve this issue, the settings of users sessions got updated into having browser sessions which stores users cookies in session storage. Overall, this task could have been done in less time if cloud functions have been utilized earlier instead of relying on async-await.

Conclusion

In general we learned that communication was important. This is because with many people in a team, if we are not constantly communicating where we are at in the project or do not check up on eachother we can create rifts with some people not meeting the expected deadlines or not being aware of what is or is not being done. This communication we were able to tell eachother truthfully what our progress was with any question we wanted to as a group or with the supervisors and what we needed to prioritize. In doing so there was no animosity within the group and we were able to proceed as we wanted to with little delay.

Additionally, since we are a big team of 9 people, it is important to work on the organization, task distribution related to our skills, and respect the deadlines that we put onto each other to have a smooth sailing. Time management is an element that we will eventually find harder to implement as we go with all our other assignments and exams. This will have to be put into our priorities in order for us to reach all the requirements and meet the deadlines for each sprint.