# Matthew Thien

Lab #1

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CISC 3140

My name is Matthew Thien and I am enrolled in Professor Katherine Chuang’s virtual class, Design and Implementation of Large-Scale Web Applications, in Brooklyn College. One of our first tasks in the class is to separate ourselves in to groups and try to imagine that we are working together on a project that requires good communication. Professor Chuang’s primary goal in this course is for us to experience what it’s like to work as a unit. It can be extremely difficult at times, especially when you are working with people you aren’t familiar with. She specifically assigned this task because since it is only the beginning of the semester, there shouldn’t be enough time for people to be acquainted.

There were three groups made according to people’s operating systems: Mac OS, Windows and Linux. I joined the Mac group. When I first joined the call, it was a little quiet because I don’t think anybody was familiar with each other. People soon started to talk and it got productive. We first started off deciding what our imaginary project would be. There were a few people who had ideas of what our project should be about and it got a little chaotic. This is inevitable when it comes to large groups because everyone wants to get their voices hard. So, in order for us to make it easier to choose, we decided to take a poll and vote on which idea to work upon. Having a poll not only makes it easier to choose but, it’s also very fair because then we’d know which idea the majority prefers. After taking a poll, we decided on a service called “Roommate Hub.” Roommate Hub is basically a food delivery service similar to Grubhub but instead of random delivery people, it would be your roommate.

While I was working with this group, I realized that in these types of large groups, there will always be some strong voices. These strong voices don’t volunteer to be the leaders but are basically automatically assigned the lead because the people who don’t speak up are most likely too timid. In our group, we had about 2 or 3 strong voices and they facilitated most of the conversation. They were the ones who decided what our next focus would be. After deciding the project and name, we wanted to create a mission statement. The person who came up with the idea also came up with a mission statement that we liked: “Let your roommate be your delivery guy! No need to interrupt each other with questions like “What do you want me to get for you from coffee shop or grocery?.” This app will save your time, bring you goods so you wouldn’t have to be interrupted during class.” This is basically the foundation of the project. The group now has to find out how to start building the project by finding out what everyone is comfortable doing. For example, we had to find out what programming language that majority of the groupmates are comfortable with. For our group, we were most comfortable with Java because that is what we were taught in Brooklyn College. When it comes to group work, it is important that most people can feel comfortable and accounted for because it leads to more productivity.

Because of the time restriction, that is where we ended off on our session. One of the key aspects of working as a group is communication so, we decided to make a Discord server for our group. However, we were told at the end of the lecture that groups aren’t permanent. I learned a lot of things during this meeting. I realized that I still have a lot to learn since I have not actually had first-hand experience working in these conditions.