Reflective Summary.

The group was made of four, this included myself, Paddy MacMahon, Joanne Humphries and Yolanda Dopico Garcia. We were assigned chromosome 3. The development cycle involved assigning each of us a role. It was decided between as that as me and Yolanda did not have a computing background we should split a section and if the work required was considered to minimal for us we could help the others or we could find other tasks. Joanne was assigned the database section, paddy the middle layer and myself and Yolanda decided to split the webpage. Of the requirements of the webpage and Yolanda did the home page and I did the summary page and we split the detail page so Yolanda completed the DNA and Sticky-end section and I completed the amino acid and codon section. It was agreed that we should try to meet once a week and if not possible we could collaborate via email. As we each had our own respective sections to do most of the work became independent however we did meet to make sure everyone was ok and the work was progressing. Each individual did their own unit testing and documentation which was all brought together and combined to bring about the front-end. As me and Yolanda where splitting the web section we both worked on our individual sections and then combined them to offer a combined front end.

The biggest challenge that I personally faced was the difficulty in getting help on sections that I got stuck on as the part I was stuck on so was Yolanda and as neither paddy or Jo had web design knowledge there was a lot of trail and testing and self-reading. Also as me and Yolanda had been working on the wed design we didn't really plain it as well as we could have so we both had slightly different ideas of what the webpage should look like so when we had to combine it I felt like our ideas where different. Another problem was as there were no lessons after the initial 10 it became less of an incentive to meet up at university and it was easier to communicate via email therefore certain things that should have got communicated or could have been picked up on by looking at each other's code or even face to face discussions where left. I also personally think that if we had to meet more often it would have probably pushed me to get the work done faster as I would have had more incentive to have something different each time.

If possible in the future it would be nice if the course was structured slightly different in the sense that after the initial lectures there could be workshop sessions once a week where people could register their interest and a lecture or aid could come and offer some guidance. This way if no one shows an interest this doesn't waste the lectures time, as there were certain parts which took up a lot of time and become a bit of fixation for me to correct. I believe me and Yolanda should have planned our part better. After getting some experience now it would have been more sensible to create a structure for the webpage first, deciding what the menu bar should look like the general layout the number of pages, then proceeding with the web design. But as we both where novice in this I feel we saw the task ahead and just wanted to complete it. Another improvement would be having the groups as groups of three only, as me and Yolanda split the work I felt that not all my work has been shown. Also there are parts which I would have preferred to do differently then what she had. Towards the end of the web design I realised as we had been working on different parts of the website but with overlaps e.g. we both had different menu bars one of our work will not be displayed. Even though certain parts which may be small like the menu bar took a lot of work to do so my idea was to maybe have a switch button where we would share our code but have our own

designs and we could switch styles. This idea did not go down well so we decided to just combine our work. This ended with the menu bar design created by Yolanda being used as well as her colour scheme as hers was deemed to be more professional.   However having someone else doing the same or similar work as you was also helpful as they could help you on parts which you may have been stuck on or show you a different method on doing the work. Also it was not till the end that I realised that my github was not viewable to all as I was using the windows to upload my files I didn't even notice. (I am still not sure way it wasn't available) As me and Yolanda where meeting often to discuss the webpage design we would just interchange our code using the Pandora file structure. It would have also been nice if it was possible to have github on Pandora because the changes I was making to my websites where been tracked however when I was testing the cgi it was not always possible to track the changes. If it is possible to track changes on github using Pandora this is something I would like to learn for the future.

By doing this project I have really enjoyed myself and learnt a lot. When I initially started the degree my programming skills where very limited and I feel this module has allowed bringing all aspects of programming done this year neatly into one project. I also wanted to know how this masters and the skills I would learn from it be applied to my job as a virologist and by doing this project it has allowed me to see how the different topics we have learned be applied to working situation. I was also glad to have done the frontend of the project as it allowed me to learn about web design as this is something which was not covered as much in other modules therefore learning something new. Also for any new processes that I might want to create at my work the user interface would play the most significant role and by learning how to create one this would be a big advantage for me the future. Also doing this project has allowed me not only about the database and perl and cgi scripting but the importance of design and planning. There have also been times where I have drifted from the golden rule of KESS which I know I am less likely to do in the future. At the same time it has given me the motivation to learn about other programming languages such as java as there are so many other cool things that could have been possible if I had a more knowledge. It was also my first experience of a structured programming and learning about github and how to use it was important. Even though I didn't use it as much as I should have for future it has taught me how it can be used an the importance of it. By working with others with greater knowledge of programming than myself I was also able to improve my knowledge by discussing their code and by seen how they implemented there sections and how there code worked etc. Overall I feel that this module has helped me learn a lot I already have ideas of how I can use the parts of this programme to help introduce a new test we are designing in the lab and I enjoyed the part I had in designing the webpage.

For this reason I am enclosing a link to my website highlighting the idea of switching as I was happy with the layout I had even though parts where a bit colourful, but it was my preference. I did not finish it totally as I gave up on the idea as Yolanda was not happy doing a switch, however its jus to highlight the way I had my style set up. Also it took me forever linking external images and CSS to my cgi script for my menu bar to work.

Webpage: http://student.cryst.bbk.ac.uk/~pm001/mhome.html

Github Link: https://github.com/mehbs

Files for my webpage begin with m and are in the My web folder in github.