I’m sharing my experience of project which I did in the last semester as project for Programming Lab-1. As the course requirement we were allowed to develop any website or desktop application but we had language restriction as we were allowed to develop product only in java. It was a group based project consisting of 6 members. Our group was mixed as 3 of the group members were well experienced and other 3 were learners. As all of us wanted to learn new things we decided to develop a LAN messenger which included network programming as well as creation of desktop application in java.

The whole process of developing this application went through ups and down as things didn’t went always what we expected. As none of us had experience in such type of network programming it was like finding needle in haystack to decide the approach and way to develop the system. Initially we decided to follow the peer to peer approach for developing the system as there was no need of server so we decided to use JXTA library of java which is peer to peer library. Work was divided among all the group members so we all had to learn the library and also learn functionality which we had to implement in the project. I had to implement the voice chat feature in our project. It was hard to get work done from all members as most of the time we did the work others weren’t able to because of less knowledge or their slow learning speed. So many times we faced problems in coping up with the speed of the other project members. Round about whole first month went useless in learning the library. As it was community driven library and people manage it there was nobody to respond to our errors or problems which we faced in the project. Even the lead developer of the project was not responding to our queries.

So after wasting a month or so we switched to follow the client server architecture in solving our problem and we started to work on the problem with use of core java without using any of the libraries. As we decided to work in core java then all of our group members started to solve their part in the problem. As each of the members has their own way of coding any approaching the problem we faced problem in integrating the whole product in to one final complete product. Also expecting same quality of work from our peer is difficult and so delegating them work is most difficult thing also if they do the work. Getting the work done is also quite difficult and also error solving in someone else’s code is quite difficult. We faced 1 or 2 time’s problem when some silly errors were made and to solve such error we had to spend many hours.

Week before the project submission deadline was quite a hectic as it was the time for integration the final product and solving all the errors which we face at that time and also to do proper thorough testing of the product. One thing which I liked about my group in which I was working is that there was no communication problem and also ego problem which in case is possible among the members. Every member tried to work up to their level which is not always what we expect but at last we were able to complete the project on time. Though we wasted more than 30 days on learning a new library we were able to develop a system on time so in my thinking it was great work which we did of developing a working product within stipulated time. We had great learning experience as working in a team, dividing work among all the team members.