Course Assignment: Project planning, process documenting and collaboration

Project Methodology - Mikkel Andersen

Introduction:

In this course assignment, we have been asked to plan the creation of the new websites for the fictional company "Lofthus frukt og saft" located in Hardanger fjord in western Norway. The company is expanding their business and are bringing their 100% natural product to new markets. As such, they need a new website which will serve as a way for them to both promote and sell their products. My task will be to plan out the different steps and milestones of this process, such as writing articles, taking or sourcing photos as well as designing and making the website. The assignment assumes that the company already has a logo and a brand strategy, but no visual assets to use in the website production.

Since we in this instance are only planning the website and not actually making it, we will be making a Gantt chart showing the various tasks that need to be completed, when they need to be started and completed and by whom.

Process:

I started out by reading through the assignment text a couple of times while making a mental note of the various things that need to be included in the Gantt chart such as a task overview, team member overview, timeline and timeframe.

At this point I was ready to begin brainstorming the various tasks that needed to be included in the Gantt chart. I wrote down an initial list on paper of the tasks I felt were required, after which I wrote them down on another piece of paper in chronological order and assigned team members to them based on the nature of the task.

When I was happy with the planning I had done on paper, I began creating my Gantt chart in Microsoft Excel. While the only reason I used Excel for my last assignment was due to the short timeframe of the project (GanttProject was not well suited for small or short projects in my opinion), I ended up liking the freedom you get with Excel over that of GanttProject anyway. I suppose GanttProject may have been a quicker way of doing it, since its specifically made for this purpose, but I felt more comfortable using Excel as it allowed me to tailor the chart for my specific needs.

I structured my chart somewhat similar to what I have done previously, but with the longer timeframe of this project, in comparison to the last Gantt chart I made, I was able to make some changes to it that gave it a better structure. I also used inspiration from the provided Case study of the Architect website Gantt chart, as it is very neatly laid out and easy to understand.

When it comes to the various other professionals needed for this project, I went with what I would perhaps call a barebones team of people. I did consider also adding a separate designer into the mix, but felt like much if not all of his tasks could be handled by the front-end developer as even things such as creating vector graphics are within the toolset of the front-end developer. I also considered for a while whether or not to include a back-end developer for creating a CMS system for the

customer, but in the end decided not to include that as well since I felt like it was perhaps a bit outside the scope of the project. This could easily be implemented into the Gantt chart however, as it would in large part run parallel with the front-end development.

The team will use GitHub for sharing project files and version control and Trello for project management and progress tracking.

The link to my github repo:

https://github.com/mikkelworld/Lofthus-frukt-og-saft

Conclusion:

I'm quite happy with the result and feel like it is a good outline for a new website. I believe it would serve its purpose well and that I've covered most, if not all, of the important tasks. Like I mentioned earlier, there are certainly other tasks such as the implementation of a CMS system that could be considered, but I ended up scrapping that idea. Overall I am comfortable with the result and while this Gantt chart is perhaps somewhat less detailed than my previous work, I drew inspiration from the provided case study as I felt like it was much easier to get an overview of the project using this format. If the project was somewhat larger, I would perhaps create separate sub-charts for some of the more complex workflows.