**Individual Lessons Learned**

**Brendan College (Group 6)**

**Project 1: Group Matching App**

**COP 4331, Fall 2021**

This is a 1 page assignment to be turned in through webcourses to your instructor at the end of the semester.

**Contents of this Document**

The contents of the paper are as follows:

* In your opinion, what was the hardest part of this project? What was the easiest part of the project?
* What technical and non-technical lessons did you learn on this project (positive or negative) that you may be able to use in the future?
* What suggestions do you have for future students who take this course?

Imagine growing up and having your father show you survival skills here and there throughout your childhood. Skills such as how to start a campfire with matches, how to pitch the tent you bought at the sporting goods store, how to skin the fish you caught with a fishing pole, or how to make potable water with a modern filter. Now let’s say he drives you out into the middle of the forest, drops you off and says, “I’ll be back in a week. Good luck,” leaving you with only the clothes on your back.

That’s how this course felt to me.

Up until this point, my only experience with object-oriented programming had been through Java. I had not heard of things like the Agile model, and didn’t know what a Gantt chart was~~, and I didn’t know that there was more to testing than “change it until it works.~~” I’m majoring in Computer Engineering, so I had no idea as to the syntax of JavaScript, and I didn’t know that CSS wasn’t completely separate from HTML. On top of that, I was nominated as program leader (not to say I’m adverse to the position). To me, leadership, cooperation, and organization comes naturally. I believe leading my team was the easiest part of the project for me. Future project managers should be in constant communication with their team, have regular group meetings, and set concrete deadlines for goals.

Conversely, the hardest part of this project was contributing to the development of all but the backend of the website. I had zero experience with JavaScript, CSS, HTML, or SQL coming into this project. My biggest regret was not taking the initiative to start learning web development skills early into the project. I felt guilty leaving almost completely leaving SQL to one team member, and HTML to another. Future students should teach themselves skills they’ll need early on, and get started on their project early. Future students also should work out the method to which they’ll host their project, and the mechanisms which entities (e.g. clients, servers, etc.) will use to communicate with each other before beginning in-depth work on their classes. I also regret not leaving time for, and instructing my team to do more testing consistently throughout the project, and would advise future project managers to not do the same behavior. One last piece of advice I have would be to start your deliverables as soon as they’re available, and pay attention to the requirements. The deliverables ultimately make up 75% of the project grade, and so they are very important to your success.