

Team Huh?

Reflection

On the whole, our project went smoothly. We worked well together as a team, built a system we are all proud of, and learned about the technologies involved. Many of the positive aspects of our team can be partially attributed to the time we spent crafting our team contract. Our discussions about our goals, personal styles, schedules, etc. laid the groundwork for us so we could communicate effectively, get work done, and have a good time while doing so. For example, because we knew that most of us were busy on Tuesday nights, we did a good job planning ahead and working early, which meant we avoided working frantically to meet deadlines. Understanding each other's style of reasoning was helpful for both communicating our ideas and listening to each other's ideas, which made it much easier to move forward when we had design questions to resolve. Talking about our past experiences built trust and helped us defer to each other's relative experience with the various frameworks and libraries we used, so one of us could quickly explain the possible avenues to solving a technical problem, and we could then move on to implementing the actual solution, which also helped us learn more. Finally, we all agreed that our main goal from this project was to learn, which made it easier to set priorities for how we approached our system.

There are, of course, some areas where we could improve our process. More rigorous testing of all components of our system, especially the hardware components, would have been useful - unfortunately, we weren't quite sure how to set up tests for the various non-Javascript aspects of our system (Arduino and Cocoa application). We had set up our full system and it had worked perfectly multiple times while passing all of our existing tests, so we assumed our system worked. Unfortunately, when we tried to demo our system for the TA a few days before the project was due, it had mysterious bugs. Luckily, this still gave us enough time to diagnose and fix the problem, but it would have been better to have figured out rigorous testing earlier.

Feedback

- Matt's Feedback - [We worked together extremely well, which actually makes it harder for me to give constructive feedback. Therefore, I focused on positive aspects that I found helpful within our team dynamic.]
 - **Kulpreet**
 - I'm impressed by the way you think through high-level decisions, both technical- and design-related. Continue to share your opinions as you work on other projects and I'm sure you'll be a valuable asset to any team.
 - **Eddie**

- You do a great job finding solutions when we run into problems/roadblocks. Your suggestions were helpful and pushed towards the goals of the system, even though they may not have been our first plan of action. Keep being resourceful as you move on to other teams.
- **Nick**
 - Beyond being a great programmer, you do an excellent job describing technical details. I found it easy to understand the work you did on the project and learned a lot about the technologies you introduced us to. On other teams, make sure to continue to communicate effectively.
- Kulpreet's Feedback
 - **Eddie**
 - Eddie is an incredible hacker that we were all able to rely on to assist in working on all parts of the stack. He was also willing to pick up slack and work around our schedules, making sure that we all contributed equally and that work got done on time.
 - **Nick**
 - I admire Nick's willingness to take on challenges. Even when he was not familiar with a certain framework or technology, it was not a problem for him to quickly pick it up. He was also really good at taking complex design ideas and conveying them effectively to the rest of the team. Much the system design of how to Arduino would communicate with the Mac application was his idea.
 - **Matt**
 - The different perspective Matt was able to provide contributed greatly to the team. Also, his confidence that everything would come together in the end with the hardware and software gave the team assurance that this would definitely be possible to complete in time, especially when someone like me who has a tendency to be more conservative.
- Nick's Feedback:
 - **Eddie**
 - You're a jack of all trades. You had your hands in places all over the project and your changes improved the product greatly. "OK" is never good enough for you and you always were working to bring the product to the next level of perfection. Keep the eye for detail and diligent care for correctness in your future products.
 - **Kulpreet**
 - You're a work horse. You took on major architectural tasks and set us up for success from the start. Also your work on the design portion was impressive. Calling out bad ideas and encouraging good ones was essential to shaping the product of Huh. Keep taking initiative in your projects.
 - **Matt**

- You're a wizard, Matt. Being the only person with Arduino experience, you stepped up massively to the task- ensuring that the orb was possible despite some of us not being sure. Also- your work simplifying our data design was crucial to cutting down redundancies and inconsistencies. This allowed us to implement Huh clearly and effectively. Keep stepping up and taking bold responsibilities in your projects.
- Eddie's Feedback:
 - Matt
 - Our biggest influencer in choosing the Orb addition. Your confidence and knowledge allowed the team to take on the Orb project. Even though you knew it would depend on your background with Arduino's, you never hesitated to improve our project with the glowing Orb. Keep taking on the better projects, with your skillset, you will surely complete them either way, why settle.
 - Kulpreet
 - Your work ethic set the tone for the team right from the start. You made the initial push so early on that we all ended up working more diligently. The work wasn't just done timely though, it was done well. Your skillset and work ethic make you an awesome team member. Your contributions always were production ready, you skipped right over the MVP and give our UI a responsive design that would be impressive even in a large scale web app. Keep up with your awesome work.
 - Nick
 - Your previous skills translated into the project very well, and you were always willing to share it with the team. Transitioning from implementations of core components was facilitated by your strong understanding of all aspects of the project. You completed every task on your plate with ease and made our bigger bugs go away without the team noticing how problematic they were. Nice catch with switching to Heroku to fix the OpenShift error we had.