

Project Lead – Bulk Offers UI: Overcoming Adversity and Delivering Success

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Introduction

Project Overview

- Project Lead: Bulk Offers UI (Jan 2023 - May 2023)
- Goal: Develop a new trader UI for bulk editing of offers
- Stakeholders: UX designers, trading team, management

Situation

Business Problem

- Inefficient and time-consuming bulk offer editing process for traders

Objective

- Create a user-friendly, efficient, and responsive UI for bulk offer editing

Task

Individual Responsibilities

- Planning, and coordinating communication with UX and traders, development lead
- Pairing and teaching the new graduate on the project
- Mentoring the team in good Angular practices

Architecture

- Front end Angular 12 UI
- Java 17 API layer application
- Java 17 Spring Boot microservice
- MySql Database

Team Members

- UX designer, 4 full-stack developers

Daily Activities

- Meetings, delegating tasks, tracking progress, resolving issues, hands-on development

Project Execution

Phase 1: Ideation, UX designs and planning

- Organising initial workshopping days
- Went through 5 iterations of UX, collaborating with stakeholders and incorporating trader feedback
- Improved naming and clarity of UI elements to enhance user experience
- Planned and allocated tasks for the first two sprints, adjusted tickets after each sprint based on changing requirements

Phase 2: Technical Development

- Setting up the base UI with routing and service to retrieve data
- Creating a set of mock endpoints to allow ticket parallelisation
- Handling Data with RXJS observables: Overcame challenges with handling asynchronous data streams
- Using FormControls to handle user input: Gained a deep understanding of Angular FormControls for complex form handling
- Creating 6 Jetty endpoints that connect the DB to the UI
- Handling complex logic around validating multiple updates across different objects

Result

Project Outcome

- Completed MVP a month before the deadline
- New UI will improve productivity and reduce wasted time for traders
- Testing with traders showed positive feedback around new designs and flows:
 - "It's very clear which sections I've adjusted and which I haven't."
 - "Process is clear and submitting the bulk adjustment is clear as well."

Lessons Learned

- Better able to break down a project into manageable chunks
- Improved knowledge of Angular FormControls, RXJS, and Jackson object mappers
- Overcame challenges with handling complex objects and deserialization

Adjustments

- Take more time expanding descriptions on tickets for better guidance
- Verify object design compatibility with Jackson deserialization
- Ensure UX designs are collated at the end of all iterations

Conclusion

Bulk Offers UI

- A successful project that showcases resilience and adaptability

Relevance to the Role

- Demonstrates strong project management skills, technical expertise, and ability to lead teams through challenges

Personal Growth

- Enhanced leadership skills, ability to learn from past experiences, and skills in object and architecture design