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CSD310

Module 12.3 Assignment

CSD 310 Lessons Learned

I really enjoyed this class, and the group project. This is the first project I’ve done where it was fairly close to being something that would be done in the real world. Other projects I’ve done have been great to learn programming basics, but I could tell there was a gap in my knowledge to make something more than a basic program. There are still many knowledge gaps, but this class filled in some of the gaps of understanding in my goal of developing technical skills to be a valuable contributor to a business and get a role. That’s the first step as I become a real professional. I especially enjoyed that I could see the ways this project would change if it was really implemented. In reality, just about everything would have likely changed, as we got specific with the needs and goals of the business (reducing our assumptions). It was a great MVP and valuable experience to build and excited me for more.

Working in a distributed group was an interesting and overall great experience. I first attribute that to the individuals on the team taking initiative to think about and work on the project. We got a Discord server up early and started communicating. Early in the week, we would have shared documents created so that we could work on them. Since we cared about the success of the project, we would proactively take different aspects of the project requirements for the week. When there were questions, we’d post in the Discord and get help from the rest of the team. All of that went really well.

While overall the project was - what I consider - a definite success, I do have thoughts about what could have made it better. First, it would have been nice to have established team roles. I’m not one to really want that, and we did a great job managing without them. There were a few times when it would have been nice to have someone with final responsibility. Someone that could have facilitated communication, organization, and teamwork. Given we all were responsible for the grade we’d get, we took enough initiative to work well together for the couple weeks we worked together. Even if we didn’t establish a leader, it could have been better to meet over a call once or twice to get acquainted and do some high level planning, so that expectations were understood. We kept all our communication though chat. Our communication was good, but could have been better.

For collaboration, we used Word and PowerPoint where appropriate. For the programming assignments, we used GitHub. It was a great learning experience to be able to use it, but being the first time I’ve used it for collaboration, it was definitely a learning experience. The biggest change I’d make using that, would be to create a repo for just the project. The way I have it set up now is a school repo, with a directory for the term, and then for each class, and then for each module. Because I created the assignments for collaboration, this means that the other classmates cloned my whole school repo. I’m still not sure the best way to do this as I like the way things are currently organized, but want to make it easier for others to collaborate. I did some research, and repos can’t be grouped. In the future, I will probably create a separate stand-alone repo for class project, and copy the completed directory to the school repo.

Using Word, put your name and assignment number at the top of the first page. Then write a minimum one-page paper detailing the lessons you learned during the group case study exercise. Include things that went well, things that could have been improved upon, and how these lessons learned might affect your participation in future group work in class or team work in a corporate setting.