

CS 3312/LMC 3431

Reflective Memo Assignment

MEMO

April 24, 2017

TO Instructors and Clients of the Safe Steps Project
FROM The People People (Group 167)
RE Reflective Memo Assignment

We embarked on the task of making Safe Steps hoping to build an application to help victims of domestic violence. While initially setting our focus on the victims themselves, we eventually found that medical service providers are an underrepresented niche in the field of technology solutions to domestic violence. As a result, we built an application that seeks to provide these individuals with support by offering training, scenarios, and tools to help them work with victims more effectively. To wrap up the work we have done for this project over the past two semesters, here are some things we learned:

Collective Lessons

As we reflected on the project as a group, we realized some of the areas that could have been approached differently in order to make our overall process smoother and more effective. While we feel like we worked together well as a team, some of our decisions during the course of the project slowed our progress or made work more difficult for us. We have identified some of those issues with the hope of learning from both our successes and our failures.

Putting Off The Sprint: The main person who understands our product's architecture was unavailable at the end of one of our sprints. This happened because we put the sprint off until the last minute, and this person was unavailable at the time. While this only happened once, we still had a few sprints where we had to complete our work at the last minute.

Internal Circumstances: Individual group members encountered a variety of personal issues that prevented us from meeting all together as a group as frequently as we would

have liked. These include travel for work and interviews, family commitments and emergencies, and health issues in regards to illness and mental health.

External Circumstances: Throughout the majority of this semester, our client was in the midst of a personal matter regarding her husband's health, making communication complicated on all fronts. We did not have as much input on the final product as we or our client would have liked, which meant we had to make a lot of decisions on our own. However, we managed to get our work done for this sprint and the project, and ongoing patience by all members of the team kept us operating smoothly.

Individual Lessons

Our group has changed slightly from last semester, as we lost two group members and gained a new one. Still, each of us has a varying perspective on the project and each of us was able to learn something based on our experiences.

Darrington Altenbern: One of the most important lessons I learned from this project was how to work with another teammate to complete a specific task. For each sprint when we needed to create a specific page, I learned how to work with my teammate to decide what we needed from each other's code. If I was working on the redux side of things I would make sure to figure out all the functions that were needed for the react side. I could definitely improve upon my knowledge of web programming as a whole. By the end of this project I feel like I have learned the basics of creating a web application, and I have much more that I can learn.

Jackson Morgan: The most important lessons learned for me was the value of educating teammates on frameworks as well as choosing frameworks on which everyone can coordinate. Having a strong structure within which team mates can program allows less work to be put into coordinating what team-mates are doing and more focus to be put on the code itself.

Katie Leonard: Over the course of this project, I have learned quite a bit about how I operate in a team setting, my communication style, and how to balance a variety of moving parts all working towards the same goal. Our team was very laid back and

flexible with deadlines and meetings, which allowed us all to explore individually and figure out what worked and what did not. Personally, I think I would do well with a little bit more structure, if only for the sake of challenging myself a little bit more. The parts of this project that I enjoyed most were when I was communicating with several clients and trying to organize a lot of details at once. This skill is one I can definitely still develop though, since often when I was communicating well with outside entities, I was not always relaying it back to the team as well as I could have. Overall, I think a bit more structure would have helped us achieve more with this project, but I think we did well and worked well as a group.

Stephen Song: The thing that stuck out to me the most is the ability to allocate work and divide tasks in a responsible manner. While each of us in the group have certain specializations, domain knowledge, and talent, there were cases when we would be stuck because the only person who knew how to do something would be unavailable. While that was something that popped up occasionally, our group is rather flexible with timing and it may have been beneficial for us to schedule things on a weekly (or even daily) schedule, compared to a sprint-long schedule.

Yea Won Yoon: By doing the project with this group, I learned the importance of collaboration. Instead of just doing it by himself or just expecting me to do something that I don't know, one of my teammates taught me how to actually build the website with specific framework. I was able to collaborate with my other teammates to create web pages based on what I have learned. As a group, we each had a part that we contributed and it worked very well. I need to improve on some web programming skills but with what I have learned so far, I think I made a great start.

