

Final Reflection

Justice League Team

Community Watch app



1. Team reflection

Great Communication

At the start of the team up, we set up Messenger as our main communication tool. One teammate was not super familiar with the tool, but he quickly caught up with others. In addition to using Messenger as a daily sync up tool, we also host a weekly meeting almost every Sunday night to sync on significant processes. The efficient communication daily and weekly made the web development process super smooth and this enabled us to catch each milestone of this project without too much struggle.

Better Project Plan

In the Project Pitch stage, we came up with a project plan together, which outlined all necessary small tasks that we thought should be done at that moment, and everybody picked up tasks in that project plan. Along with the actual developing process, we realized that we actually missed several tasks even though we were confident that was a comprehensive plan back then. For example, the My Neighborhood Tab, which was the big personalization idea, was completely missed until we reached the MVP stage. We also missed some minor components (UI for Upvote, and Downvote), which resulted in some responsibility being vague for some time.

Agile Design Process

This project development process is a great experience for us to practice agile design. One example is that the crime reports don't have geo-location associated with each crime record. Our original plan was to convert the street address to a geo-code by an external api call from the front end. However, in the usage of the app, we realized that we are making similar external api calls all the time, which results in us reaching the query limit of that api calls. Learned this lesson quickly, we decided to change our plan and move the query workload to backend. The solution that we used is to change the Data Model of the crime, incorporating latitude and longitude to crime, and process the geo-location info one time and offline. This prevents redundant external api calls.

Team Key Lessons

Start Early, sync-up often, make sure everyone is on the same page, split work in a clear way, let others know when you're stuck,

2. Individual reflections

Fernando

“It was the best of times. It was the worst of times.” So many bugs!! But we fixed them all (maybe?). Working with this team was very intense but also very rewarding. We all spent a significant amount of time making this application come together, and learned about all the different components, how they work together, and also how to plan out a work structure so 4 people can contribute to the same project without running into many issues. I am pretty satisfied with our final product, and I feel like I learned a lot from it and from this class.

Stuti

I had a wonderful time working with Team Justice League. All team members were committed to the work we were doing, and in the early stages of the project, we especially had interesting conversations regarding our ethics protocol and design decisions. I learned a lot about how important it is to be very transparent and sensitive about the data you're presenting in a web application. Because we dealt with crime, it was particularly important for us to consider the ethics behind each decision we made. In working with the team, I learned how important it is to stay communicative at all times over chat, email, etc. so that other members know what everyone is up to and so that work can be efficiently done.

Wenbo

It was a fantastic experience working with Team Justice League. I learned the passion of creating great products and insisting on high-standards of my teammates. I like the working environment where everybody is helping everybody. We jumped on zoom calls frequently and were very responsive over messenger chat, so issues got resolved fairly quickly and easily.

Sanja

I was glad to work in a team that was committed to ensuring that not only we complete all project requirements but we deliver a product of high-standards. The teammates were very dedicated and faced all the challenges with strong determination to resolve them. This was also a great experience of working in a team and learning how to communicate effectively, especially when things aren't going great. I appreciated that team members were willing to stay more than initially scheduled during our meetings to finish deliverables.