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Teaming Experience Reflection Questions

1. My learning style is converging. As such, I enjoy working with concrete, technical problems. I chose to work on the server, as I wanted to be responsible for a large portion of the backend functionality of the project, and also have the opportunity to define and set the communication protocols that would be used for all client-server interactions. Weakness of my learning style, however, include wanting results quickly and preferring to work with things as opposed to people. In the What’s it Worth project, I found it difficult to complete the planning documents before beginning coding, and wanted to set and write important protocols myself rather than trust others. In most CS projects, I choose to work on the backend, and leave more of the user interface work to teammates. Theo has the same learning style as me, so we worked well together on different parts of the server.

2. Kaileen, Niraj, and Ben are all assimilating learners, Theo and I have converging learning styles, and Nick is an accommodating learner. This combination of similar learning styles enabled the group to function well together and complete tasks effectively and efficiently. For example, since Nick is an accommodating learner who is apt to take risks, he volunteered to become SCRUM master. Also, Kaileen, with her assimilating learn style, enjoyed working on many of the planning documents due to her propensity for logic and thinking problems through to completion. Finally, Theo and I worked on the backend functionality because our learning styles favor hands-on and concrete experiences.

3. In my team, Niraj and Ben worked on the initial image processing and later Vuforia integration, including compiling the Vuforia libraries, improving upload time with scripts, and creating the initial What’s it Worth Android app. Kaileen and Nick did most of the documentation for the team and worked on many of the later features of the Android app, including the price history screen and the ability to receive graph image data from the server. Finally, Theo and I worked on the item price cache and What’s it Worth server, respectively. These components, I feel, were the most critical in the functionality and successful requirement completion of our project. Roles were determined early on the project with the first sprint planning document. There were no arguments or disputes over roles, as everyone seemed to want to help with a different aspect of the project. The group worked very well together, and everyone contributed equally, helped with problems that arose, and attended the majority of group meetings.

4. Admittedly, I was the team member who created a minor obstacle during the project. Just before the second sprint was finished, I was very busy with job interviews and projects for other classes and had not finished my portion of the server. With the help from the rest of my team, however, and working from abroad, we were able to finish and present successfully.

5. Perhaps in the beginning, there was disagreement over which project to pursue. Once we started working, however, there were no further problems. I think that the sprint planning documents forced us to make critical decisions before writing any code, and allowed all members to work collectively toward pre-defined goals. Furthermore, since all team members had very similar learning styles, we worked well together and found it easy to quickly resolve any problems that arose during the sprints.

6. As stated in question four, a problem arose when I had not completed my share of the server before the second sprint. In this case, conflict resolution was minimal and friendly, as other group members simply reminded me of the work I had to accomplish and even took responsibility for getting some of it done on time. In my experience, conflict rarely arose in the group, and any problems were resolved quickly and painlessly.

7. As stated previously, there was some competition over whose project idea we would choose. However, once we had decided on a project, everyone was cooperative and worked together for the common good of the group. There were no problems with personal agendas on the team.

8. Culturally, all of our group members were very homogeneous. Our work and team styles were all similar. I have, however, worked with culturally diverse groups in other classes in the past, so I am used to working with others who are from different backgrounds.

9. I think knowing learning styles will enable me to recognize why a group dynamic is failing in certain circumstances and allow me to select the appropriate learning modes such that I can best conceptualize and understand a process for a class or project.