Challenges and learning,

Some of the easy things we found include planning our tasks and putting them into a timetable, it was easy to allocate duties and roles since we already knew each others strengths and weaknesses and we all knew how long a certain task might take to be complete and with that knowledge in mind we were able to swiftly and completely assign tasks and roles which fit perfectly with the timetable and even had time to perfect the project before the Due date. Also since the group consisted of generally good and like minded people, ideas flowed smoothly without issue.

The difficult parts were during the development stage, since everyone had a busy schedule, some had jobs, it was hard to meet in person, it was also hard to keep track of individual work since we did not work on a single document but each worked on their individual ones and submitted it to be compiled to a single document, same goes to the tasks we were to work on. Also in regards to this some members, once tasks were allocated along with a busy schedule, prefered to work in solitude, which made communications a bit difficult. Sometime during the development stage one of our members ended up forgetting his equipment in a different stage where he went during the short semester break which delayed a whole weeks work.

The amount of coding was unexpected, the members who worked on the website had knowledge in coding but were not prepared on how big of a task it is not to mention how the amount of research one has to do in user centered design and graphics design to ensure the website looked as professional and worked just as good.

We had to stretch our knowledge on certain areas like user centered design and graphics design as well as web programing we also had to do heavy research on the fast food industry, the pricing rates and how to be better or at least equal to the top companies in the same field, some had to take art class to know how to draw and design good Logos while others had to learn photography to capture the images of the pizza for commercial use while also stretching our working hours to learn all this outside of the allocated timetable.

I was expecting to have a somewhat unruly group and expected to carry the group but it turned out that they are nice people, i also expected to lag on my part of the project since i have a loaded schedule but so far i have been able to accomplish most of my tasks on time since i took the microcredential on managing time and priorities and learned how to plan my time to effectively accomplish all my tasks without lagging on any of them,

Some new skills i have learned while working on this project include, good communication, web scripting, graphical design as well as critical thinking in the case of web scripting since you can use certain formulas to code a website which are long and complicated as seen in online templates which have the same outcome as small simple lines of code thai are complex but simple once you understand them better

So far we have worked in accordance to our timetable when it comes to deadlines but before the deadline a lot of things came up which hindered us to achieve short term goals and accomplish certain tasks which made us change some minor details in the timetable to ensure that the deadline is meet on time, i think trying to script time to fit in accordance to your timetable is unrealistic, which is something i came to learn recently and if i went back i’d be open to any and all changed towards the timetable trusting that it will eventually fit the timetable.

I believe our timetable was realistic since all the tasks were accomplished in time and since we planned it using individual information on how long or how short it would take them to accomplish each individual tasks so i doubt there is anything i’d change from the timetable itself just my controlling attitude.

We decided to use Trello as our task management app which proved well somewhat irrelevant since all our planning was through word of mouth whenever we meet and once someone was done they’d post their part on github and inform the group on whatsapp which was our communication platform, some unexpected risks were like the loss of some equipment and how un effective trello was.

Project process

Some of the things i learned from group work include How vital communication is to a group, i won’t lie, i’m not that good with communication, i prefer to work in silence and accomplish my tasks and roles in solitude but being in a group one must constantly update their progress and accomplishment which isn't my style, i prefer having something concrete before i talk. What worked well in my group was the commitment to the project, being in uni and doing 4 courses a semester with a load of assignments and reading it's easy to ignore a group assignment and major on others, but that wasn’t the case with my group members, they actively worked on the project since each knew how important it was, As a group we are supposed to meet physically and work on the assignment but aside from the allocated tutorial we never meet which in a way i understand but i also feel like if we meet once a week we would be doing the project faster than the current rate.As mentioned we used Whatsapp to communicate since each of was familiar with it and relied on it on communication and mostly because its a mobile app and we’re nearly always using our phones throughout the day, we would use it to pass key information, cite references and sites that we would use as well as give links to documents stored in the cloud, it was also where we would ask for help and/or clarification to a certain issue on the task or project in general, when we started we had plans to use facebook messenger but changed to whatsapp then later on with the introduction of trello we decided to rely on it to assign tasks and monitor our progress but it proved to be ineffective.

When planning a group project in future i have realised it's better to work on group dynamics at the start of the project, having like minded people who have different skills and knowledge in different topics is a key issue, i think the only thing i’d personally do different would be having regular and consistent communications with my group as well as consulting the members as well as our Tutor.

My advice to a group about to start a project is to take time to set up communication channels and group dynamics before embarking on the task, know each other, your weakness as well as your strengths, and once you are done with that make sure your communications are consistent whether or not there is progress to talk about or not.