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SDC342

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Project Retrospective

What went well during your project?

Overall, the team successfully delivered a fully functional application that met the project requirements. The MVC structure, database integration, authentication system, and CRUD functionality were all implemented and tested successfully. Collaboration during the final testing phase was especially effective, as multiple team members reviewed the application and helped identify remaining bugs. Communication during debugging allowed issues to be resolved efficiently before final submission.

What went poorly during your project?

The most significant challenge was maintaining consistency across database versions and naming conventions. Because the team chose to modify a single shared database instead of maintaining versioned backups, schema changes occasionally caused integration issues. This led to additional debugging time and occasional rework. File path inconsistencies and stylesheet linking issues also created minor setbacks during integration.

Was your project plan useful?

Yes, the project plan was helpful in outlining major milestones and breaking the project into manageable phases. It provided structure for weekly progress and ensured that critical components like database setup, authentication, and testing were addressed in a timely manner.

How much were you able to stick to your project plan versus make adjustments?

The overall framework of the plan remained intact, but several adjustments were necessary during execution. Integration and debugging required more time than originally anticipated, particularly during the final weeks. While the plan guided development, flexibility was required to address unexpected technical challenges.

How much additional work did you find during the project execution?

A moderate amount of additional work emerged during integration and final testing. This included resolving database mismatches, correcting routing and path issues, refining validation logic, and ensuring UI consistency across pages. While these were not new feature additions, they required careful attention to ensure the application functioned properly as a complete system.

If you were starting over from the beginning, what would you do differently?

If starting over, I would establish stricter version control practices for both the codebase and database schema from the beginning. Maintaining separate development versions or backups would reduce integration risk and simplify troubleshooting. I would also standardize naming conventions early to prevent confusion later. Additionally, implementing shared header and footer components at the beginning would streamline styling and reduce repetitive code updates.