UROPMatcher Reflection

Team Open Source Fruit Tart (opensourcefruittart@mit.edu)
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“After completing the project, your team will together write a reflection on the project and what you learned from it: what went well, and what could have been improved, and what you would do differently in the future.”

Checklist:
Evaluation of project from team planning perspective
Summary of key lessons learned

Team planning evaluation:

- We used facebook chat for most communication. It was great for getting quick response from the team, but sometimes important messages were easily lost in the discussion for those who looked at it later.
- We kept up our Thursday virtual check-in meetings, where we’d plan out our next steps as a team for upcoming deadlines, which helped keep us on task.
- We were able to schedule work periods to work all together in person for both the MVP and the final code.
- Team members were open to constructive criticism and improvement. Helped each other whenever there was a major bug, resulting in effective debugging.

Key lessons learned:

- MIT certificates are complicated and impose a lot of constraints on an app. (We learned to use alternative methods for authentication.)
- Dealing with uploading and storing files takes a lot more time and debugging than one would expect.
- Always confirm early with TAs what needs to be handed in. (e.g. finding out about the Team Plan and Reflection through Piazza)
- Cannot depend on 6.170 website

What went well:

- We had weekly meetings where the team updated each other with their current progress, and everyone was productive in completing their planned part for that meeting.
- Our agenda for each TA meeting was comprehensive for all the questions we had leading up to the meeting, so our team was able to get most/all of our questions answered when talking to Graeme.
- Team members were transparent with making improvements. We would give each other constructive criticism on code, benefitting the project overall.
- Each team member checked and debugged code whenever another team member was struggling/sick, leading to effective problem solving.

Possible improvements:

- Most of the back-end debugging was done after the front-end components were implemented, so we often had to debug front-end and back-end at the same time. Back-end testing could be improved by testing the routes once they were written (i.e. using Postman)
- A couple times we had to add or modify routes when front-end was being integrated with back-end. It would have been more efficient if we spent the time earlier on to figure out route names and the exact behavior of each route instead of waiting until integration time.

What we would change:

- We would have benefitted from more demos with our TA. Graeme had a lot of suggestions for features in our app, but the demo came too late in the project timeline to make significant improvements.
- Double check the project guideline and checklist before turning in our assignments.
- For our app, all uploaded resumes are stored in AWS S3 and the url is included in db. When a user reuploads resume, it takes a few seconds for the “replacing file” action to take place in S3, resulting in the user not being able to immediately see their updated resume. Even though this is mostly because of S3’s feature, ideally we would want to let users see their updated resumes immediately, and would have experimented with a different service if we have time.