Reflective Journal

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# Journal Entry 2

On the weekend before our presentation in week 5, my teammates and I spent our time structuring our presentation and then recording our parts and merging it together. On the day of the presentation, I realized that the volume for some reasons was soft and we could barely be heard. This has taught me that although I have tested the video on my own machine and confirmed that it sounded fine, I should mimic the stage and test it on the platform I am presenting on before the actual thing. Somehow, the audio was terrible when I shared screen and played the video and I regret not testing it more thoroughly. This has taught me a very valuable lesson as at the core of things, this does not apply only to presentations.

We continued working on the project in week 6. I worked on getting K-fold validation done while my teammate was working on the front-end. After getting K-fold cross validation to work, I decided to try my hands on Ensemble methods and this is where I got stuck and didn’t know how to proceed as it was my first time using Ensemble methods and hence I needed to get some guidance from Afsaneh. Usually, after every step, we would get some guidance from Afsaneh but since there were still presentations for other groups in week 6, we couldn’t get more guidance that week and had to wait till week 7.

In week 7, we got to ask Afsaneh how to perform Ensemble and had a good discussion on what are the things we can try. Thinking back, I should have sent an email to Afsaneh in week 6 so that we wouldn’t need to waste time being less productive than we could be and simply wait till our next meeting with Afsaneh. Even if an email might not have been enough to answer our questions, it could have at least given us some pointers which could lead to us solving the problem earlier.

One of our teammates was difficult to reach since after the week 5 presentation. There was a cut off in communication and he did not turn up to any of the meetings. At the end of week 7, we got to get in touch with him again and it turns out that he was busy with mid semester break. We sat down that week and talked about how we should handle matters in the future. We know that each of us might have other responsibilities, but we have talked about it and have agreed that we will let our other teammates know if we cannot commit to something or will for a time be unavailable.

This is something that we should have done since the formation of the team and this oversight has reminded me of the importance of proper team management. This is irrelevant to our project, but I joined a Hackathon during the 2 weeks of mid semester break, and, in that Hackathon, I met a software developer and a project manager. The project manager used Gantt chart and many things that we have been taught in FIT3161. This shows me that what we have been taught are practical things that we should put into practice. Proper team management is crucial and essential to a project’s success.

During the course of the 2 weeks of mid semester break, I worked on getting the Ensemble methods to work and didn’t get much else done as I had many other assignments. One of our teammates fell sick at the beginning of this mid semester break; being in COVID times and all, this makes his sickness worrisome.

Week8

Covid situation?