

HobbyClub

Final Report

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Description and assessment of the work process

After we had the server set up and running and the team decided what are the tasks to be completed they were divided in three main categories – database, webpage layout and interaction with the database and documentation. We discussed how should we split the tasks and the decision was to have someone as head of each group, but still to have every team member contributing in all the tasks – everyone had to write at least one document of the documentation and be present on each team meeting when decisions were about to be taken.

We chose Joshwa to take responsibility of the database creation as long as he was the person with the most experience related to databases. Yusif was willing to be in charge of the documentation and to make sure that every document is completed upon deadline. As long as we had only three categories and four team members I and Claudio were assigned to the design and interaction.

My personal opinion is that even though we were equal to each other as members of the team it was a really good idea to give personal responsibility to each member. Because of it we kept pushing each other during the entire process making sure that all deadlines are met. For example, if there was something not going well with design it was mine and Claudio's task to make sure that the problem will be eliminated and everyone's task is completed on time and does not hold the team back.

In accordance with our studies we were mainly working on the project during weekends, still some individual tasks were accomplished during weekdays. We had team meeting every second Friday after classes, because it was time suitable for everyone. In these meetings we kept track on how is the team advancing towards the completion of the project and making the general decisions (for instance how should the webpage look). If someone has problem with his task, and he wasn't able to handle it in these meetings we were also deciding if someone is going to give him a hand with it or we reassign the task to a different person.

As a member of the team I can say that I really am satisfied with the results we achieved this way. The entire process was quite fluent and we had almost no critical situations.

Evaluation of the final product

The final product covered all requirements set in the beginning, it actually surpassed them. During the development we had many ideas about what we can do to further improve the original idea and some of them we implemented – the profile avatars for instance. Some of them we left for the second revision because the project was getting out of hands already. The evaluation from the team point of view – we are all happy with the final result, we covered all goals we aimed at. From the viewpoint of the client – we received some e-mails from people registered in the site to congratulate us about the job done and we were all really happy to see that people value and like our creation.

Evaluation of the project work

For all of us this was the first official team project and we really wanted to take all the possible benefits out of it. We wanted to make it as close to the real life as possible. When you work in a team things are quite different compared to a one-man-project. You have to deliver on time, because other people's tasks are depending on yours, sometimes people do not share your opinion about a problem and not everything is happening as you want it. But on the other hand when you need some help there is always someone to give you a hand with the problem. And as we all know four heads think better than one. Personally I have learned many new things – this was my first contact with PHP scripting and MySQL databases, and now I think I pretty much know the basics, and even a little more ... For every member there was a technology he was facing for first time in his life and we shared our knowledge with each other. My personal opinion is that everyone gained a lot during the project work.

Comments by individual team members

Claudio M. Camacho:

By far, my opinions and personal comments about the HobbyClub project could fill more than 20 pages. However, I can try to shrink my opinions in a couple of paragraphs.

By means of learning, this project has meant a lot to me. As agreed before starting the project, I took care of the hosting and thus learned how to administrate a web server, database server, etcetera. Also I learned how to use SVN for centralized project with several developers and how to manage daily patch and software maintenance.

On the other side, I also learned things that could not be taught in books, from my view point. As a matter of fact, I understood that designing and implementing a project is always somewhat difficult, and it is not only because of the developing part, but also due to the human side, which is the most difficult I would say, involved in a project.

Overall, and summarizing, this was a very enriching experience for me, and I think it was too for all the components, since I improved my coding skills, but also my human resources planning management.

Stoyan Nikolov:

I can say that I was really glad to participate in this project together with the rest of the team. I never liked learning from the book and by the book. Hands-on approach has always been my favorite.

With this project I had the chance to expand my skills and knowledge in many aspects - this was my first project where I had to work with a remote server, also the SVN software. I also have gained my first PHP and MYSQL experience and it was quite valuable for me, I really appreciated the chance to work with people that already have some skills and knowledge in these areas.

Once again I want to thank the rest of the team and congratulate them for the final result of our work. Basically my task together with Claudio was to create the scripts for interaction between the web-interface and the database and I am really glad with the result. We had some misconceptions in the beginning, because of lack of knowledge concerning MYSQL technology, but by the end of the project we got everything optimized and working perfectly.

Yusif Sadikhov:

This was the first web project for me, it was really enriching for my personal progress in the web-applications development and I am quite happy with the result our team achieved.

As a newbie in web-coding it was not taking so big part in the advanced PHP scripting and my tasks basically included writing some of the HTML code of the site, I created the registration form, the forms for creating new event and club, I also wrote part of the CSS concerning these forms with the help of Claudio. I am really glad to know that when a new user comes to register in our page he is using the code that I wrote myself.

Joshwa Marcallo:

For me the project was really useful, as long as I have ever been using MS SQL and ASP in my prior projects. I was already thinking about widening my knowledge and skills when we were introduced to the task, so for me it was a good chance to get more familiar with the free alternatives available – PHP and MYSQL.

This was the first time i faced SVN as well – my personal opinion is that it was not very necessary, but as long as the team wanted to make things close to the real-life experience I agreed to use it too.

I am really glad to note that we aimed high with our project and in my personal opinion we managed to get the job formidably done, and even added some additional features during the development process. My tasks were mainly concerned with the database, and after it was designed in the beginning of the project it had to be altered a couple of times in accordance with the new features we decided to implement.

Conclusions and recommendations for the future

Our biggest mistake was that we did not plan everything in detail from the very beginning of the project, so when we came to realizing some of the features during the development phase we had to make some changes in the structure of the application.

Hence, for the next project, we will start with really detailed and excessive planning to make sure that everything is taken care of and there will not be any need to alter the code already written at some point of the development process.

Once again the whole team is satisfied with the end result and more or less proud of it, taking in account that this was our first project of this type. We have many ideas about improving it already and we will be glad to do so if we see people finding it interesting and more important – using it.