Senior Design

Having fun yet?

Senior design

OR

?
Why did my project succeed?

- Innovative idea
- Worked closely with my mentor
- Extensive work on theory and design
- Weekly code reviews and discussion
- Did not try to do too much!
- Good presentations
- Good planning

Where did I go wrong?

- A lot of initial focus on the UI (UI is very time-consuming!)
- Loose planning after spring break
- Started using version control and issue trackers very late in the year
- Did not account for problems with new & unknown technology (i.e. Android)
- Didn’t keep a proper record of my work
Design

- The design phase is the most important
- Bad design will result in:
  - Bad planning
  - Chaotic building phase
  - Confusion & desperation (yup, for real!)
- Good design:
  - Focused
  - Prioritized
  - Hierarchical

Scheduling

"Anything that can go wrong, will go wrong"

- Make your own detailed schedule
- Write down what you will do each week
- Give yourself plenty of extra time
- Everything will take longer than you think
- If you are using technology that is new to you, work will be slower than usual
- **KEEP TO THAT SCHEDULE!**
  - Don’t allow late tasks to pile up, reschedule and push back future tasks
Presentation

- As important as the project (if not more)
- Follow all given guidelines (time, length, format, necessary content etc.)
- Review and rehearse
- Write down any feedback you get
- Learn from good presentations
- Adapt to your audience
- Get a theme that is not default

Demos

- Make sure your demo runs ;-)
- Make sure it also runs in the presentation environment
- Limited time: focus on what’s important
- Back-end stuff:
  - Be prepared to show or explain what happens “behind the scenes”
- Adapt to your audience
- Be excited about your own work!
- Did I mention checking your demo? Again?
eTegrity (use case diagram)

Audits ballot

Votes

Checks confirmation codes

Commits to audit/cast

Commitments to/and confirmation codes

Checks confirmation codes online

Posts confirmation codes

Photo source: Joebeone at the English Language Wikipedia

Photo source: http://www.flickr.com/photos/27048731@N03/3657081798/

eTegrity – Block Diagram

BlockDiagram.pdf
Random thoughts

- Learn all “new” tools well at the very beginning
- Know where to look for answers before you actually need to (see: Stack Overflow)
- Use version control and document all commits
- Document code as you write it
  - Use JavaDoc
- Follow code conventions
- Stay focused!
- Start working hard NOW, not in March

“The only place where success comes before work is in the dictionary.” (Donald Kendall, PepsiCo co-founder)