

Enterprise Computing Teamwork

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January 21, 2015

1 Working in a team

2 Team bonding

3 Closing

Non-functional requirement (#3 of 10)



This picture represents non-functional requirement #3. If you were at the lecture then you heard me explain in words what it means.

Working in a team

- Most software development in enterprise computing systems takes place in a team.
- Enterprise computing systems are large-scale systems developed over years or even decades.
- Many people in an enterprise depend on the system to do their jobs. It is essential that it has a *bus factor* > 1 .
- For this reason, you are also working in a team on this course, in an attempt to give a more realistic simulation of the software development experience in practice.
- Working in a team can be a complex endeavour of social dynamics.

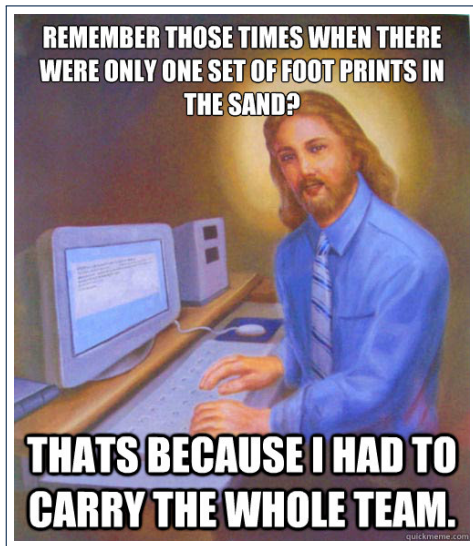
Leading a team

- Few development teams have a completely flat organisational arrangement with no structure. (Someone needs to call the meetings.)
- It is more usually the case that someone, often while being a member of the team themselves, has additional responsibilities or duties which the other members of the team do not need to bear. **They are the team leader.**
- At their discretion, the team leader can use their casting vote to resolve a problem and allow progress to be made. (*"I've decided that the banner at the top of the page should be blue. Let's move on."*) **Team leaders should not abuse their power.**
- **Small crumb of consolation:** if you are a team leader then at least you have another line to add to your CV.

Being a member of a team (other than the leader)

- Don't resent the team leader. (*"I could lead this team so much better . . ."*)
- Don't score points. (*"Oh, but earlier you said . . ."*)
- Don't even keep score. (*"This guy has rejected three of my ideas already . . ."*)
- Don't resent other members of the team if you think that they are doing less than you. You're not in a position to see all of the work that they are doing.
- Bring your talents to the mix and allow others to do likewise.

You're probably not.



Being a member of a team (*including* the leader)

- **Don't miss meetings.** You might think that someone will catch you up later. They won't.
- **Be on time.** Don't turn up at half-past for a 9:00 meeting.
- Don't complain if you do miss a meeting. **Decisions are made by the people who show up.** Email to say you're not coming.
- Try to do what you can to make the work of the team as a whole a success.
- **Read your email and reply to messages promptly.** Good teams are powered by good communications. Be clear in your email messages: don't convey your meaning by smileys.

Q. Do you know what this sentence means :-) ?

Difficulty scheduling meetings?



If you were at the lecture then you heard me explain the significance of this.

Few of us can rock this look

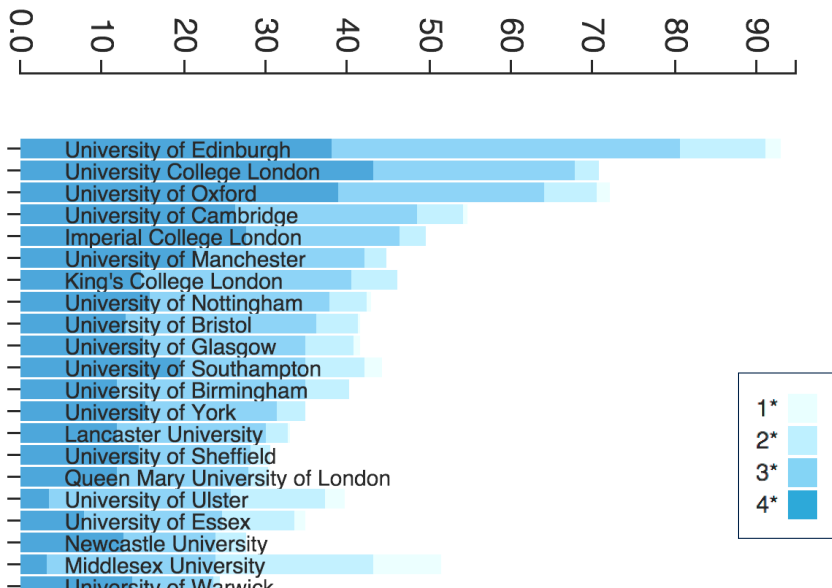


If you were at the lecture then you heard me explain the significance of this.

Being in a team meeting

- **Make yourself available for meetings.** Move your squash match if you have to. Don't make everyone else move to suit you.
- **Speak up, then shut up.** Make your contribution to the discussion so that others will know what you think, and then finish talking and allow others to make their contribution.
- **Behave politely.** Don't raise your voice or shout anyone down. Don't interrupt abruptly or talk over anyone else. Don't yawn. (*Here's an idea: go to bed early the night before.*) Don't turn up drunk or hung over. Don't pick your nose. Be professional.
- **Take notes.** You're not going to remember. Bring a pen. Note down only what you need to. Don't transcribe everything.
- **Summarise.** At the end ask "Does everyone know what they are supposed to be doing?"

A proud moment (December 2014)



A prouder moment (April 2013)



If you were at the lecture then you heard me explain the significance of this.

About Natalie Merchant



If you were at the lecture then you heard me explain the significance of this.

About Tina Weymouth



If you were at the lecture then you heard me explain the significance of this.

When you're in the room: Be in the room

- Listen and pay attention to what is being said in the meeting: don't stare out of the window or daydream.
 - Don't read your email.
 - Don't check Facebook.
 - Don't play Candy Crush.
- Make it obvious to the speaker that you are listening. Nod if you agree with what they are saying. Shake your head if you don't. Few people can read micro-expressions accurately: it's probably just Patrick Jane.
- Make eye contact with the person who is speaking and allow others to make eye contact with you when you are speaking. Don't stare though: staring is creepy.

Q. What's the difference between an introvert developer and an extrovert developer?

Good days and bad days

- The human animal is not yet completely debugged: all of us have good days and bad days. **Some of us are on the 5:2 diet.** No-one on earth is polite 100% of the time.
- You might be on the receiving end of someone's bad day: try to see it from their perspective.
- Someone else might be on the receiving end of your bad day: say "Sorry".
- You can at least make it seem like you're trying. Don't turn up in your pyjamas.

You have different characters on a team



Few of us are always right



Don't be Genesis! (1972)



Don't be Genesis! (1975)



Don't be Genesis! (1978)



Be the Strokes!



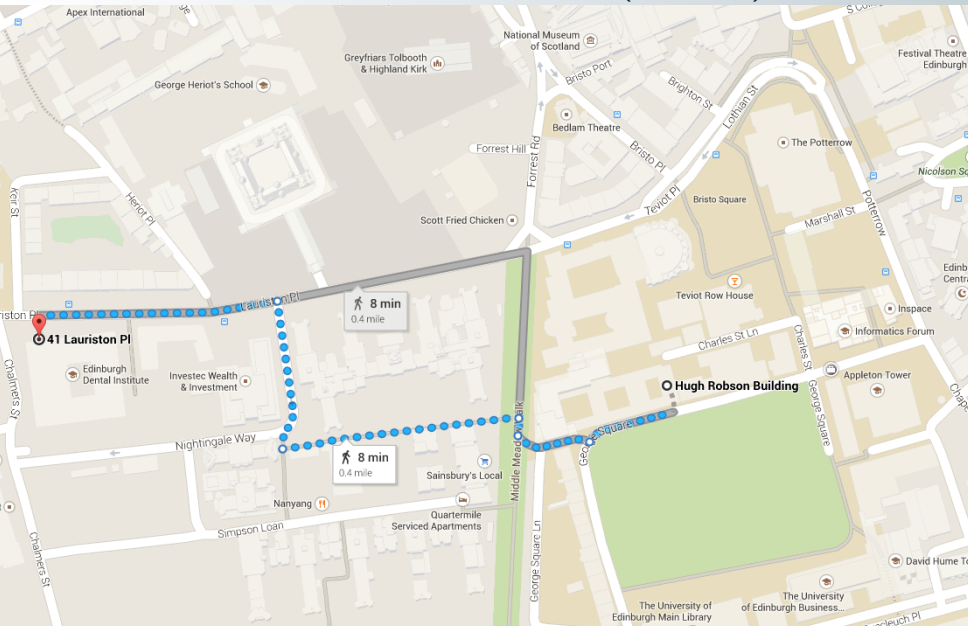
Team bonding

- Team leaders are asked to consider organising a **team bonding** exercise.
 - This is a shared experience which all of the team do together, **even though it does advance the coursework directly at all.**
 - The cost of the team bonding exercise (if any) should be shared roughly equally between all of the members of the team.
- Three possibilities are suggested below. These are all *suggestions* for things which take about an hour or so. You could do one of these, or something else, or nothing at all. You don't have to tell me afterwards what you did, if anything.
 - 1 Go and give blood.
 - 2 Make a pot of lentil soup.
 - 3 Escape from a locked room.

Suggestion #1. Go and give blood. (What?)

- The **Edinburgh Blood Donor Centre** is located a short walk from the University Central Area at 41 Lauriston Place, Edinburgh EH3 9HB.
- The Blood Donor Centre is open six days a week at the opening times advertised on their website at <https://www.scotblood.co.uk/edinburgh.aspx>
- You may or may not be eligible to give blood. Strict guidelines are in place to ensure it is safe for you to donate blood and for others to receive your blood. Read <https://www.scotblood.co.uk/can-i-donate.aspx>
- If you go along to donate, expect to be taken off to a room and asked a series of personal questions about your medical history, health, and other aspects of your lifestyle.
- **Cost:** free. You may score a cup of juice, or maybe a biscuit.

Suggestion #1. Go and give blood. (Where?)



Suggestion #2. Make a pot of lentil soup. (What?)

- Team member #1 buys an onion and oil. Chop and gently fry the onion in the oil in a big pot. Stir as you go.
- Team member #2 buys celery. Chop two stalks and add to the onion. Keep stirring. Make sure stuff doesn't burn.
- Team member #3 buys two carrots. Peel and chop and add.
- Team member #4 buys red lentils. Add two cups. Stir.
- Team member #5 buys vegetable stock cubes. Make two cubes up with boiling water. Add. Simmer on a lower heat.
- You now have about 30 to 60 minutes to have a team meeting. Everyone takes turns stirring the soup occasionally.
- Serve. Enjoy the delicious soup that you have made together. Everyone washes up their own bowl and spoon afterwards.
- **Cost:** Varies a bit, but approximately £1 per person.

Men, this is what celery looks like.

Ask someone in the supermarket where they keep vegetables.



Pro tip

Tell your Mum that you bought celery and made lentil soup. It will make her day. It may double the value of your next birthday gift.

Men, this is what lentils look like.

Ask someone in the supermarket where they keep pulses.



Men, this is what vegetable stock cubes look like.

Ask someone in the supermarket where they keep herbs and spices.



Pro tip

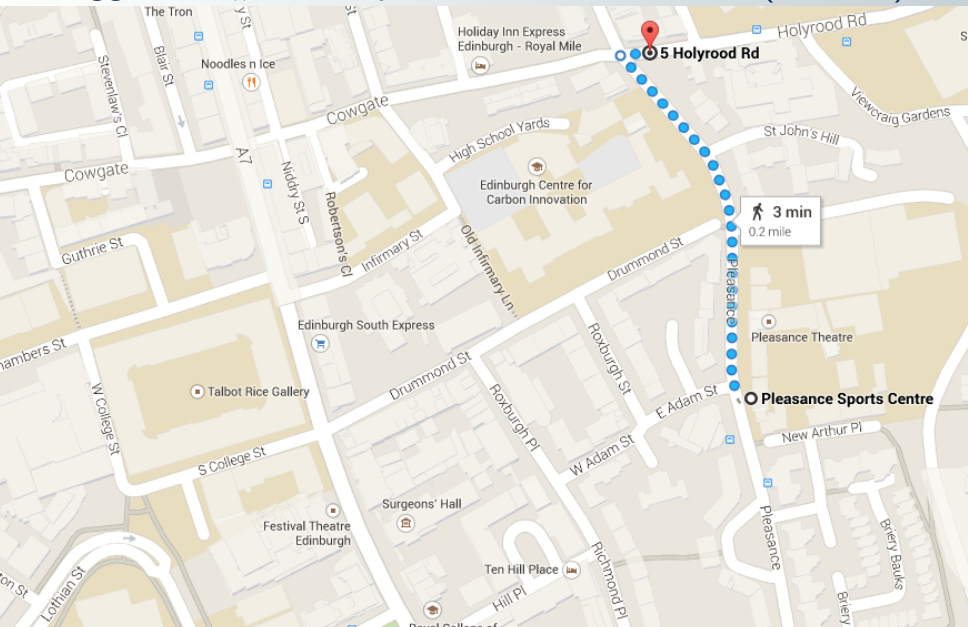
Email your course lecturer a photo of your team with a pot of lentil soup that you have just made. It will make his day.

Suggestion #3. Escape from a locked room. (What?)



- **Can You Escape?** is a live room escape experience for 3 to 6 people located at 5 Holyrood Road, Edinburgh, EH8 8AE, a short walk from the Centre for Sport and Exercise on the Pleasance.
- You have one hour to escape from a locked room by finding clues and solving puzzles.
- **Cost:** Varies depending on the number of people going, but it would be £14 per person for a team of five (£70 total).

Suggestion #3. Escape from a locked room. (Where?)



Non-functional requirement (#4 of 10)



This picture represents non-functional requirement #4. If you were at the lecture then you heard me explain in words what it means.

Things to do now

Some things to do now

- Have a team meeting.
- Get to know the other people in your team.
- Talk about your plans and ideas for the coursework.
- Start to practise your purposeful professional team persona.
 - *“Every gig is an audition for the next gig.”*
- Consider a relatively easy team bonding exercise of short duration and low cost.
 - Don't sofa-binge all five seasons of Breaking Bad.
 - Don't fly business class to the Himalayas and try to climb Everest without equipment, expert local guides, or oxygen.
 - Don't raise the stakes (*“Everyone else is giving blood: we're going to give platelets!”*) Do something you can succeed at.

Yeah! Science!

