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Project #1 Team Organization Evaluation and Plans

During the project 1, we basically did what we described in the Project Organization and Task Allocation plan. It was the first time for four people with different background and experience to come together and work on the same project. Every member showed their passion in the project, and actively attended group meetings. Since the result turned out to be not good, we should reconsider every aspect in our team organization structure.

We didn't have a clear idea of what the project should be and what would happen in the beginning. This resulted in vague project goals, prolonged meeting, and ineffective decision making. Every one wanted to help, but too many ideas only meant no idea. In the future project, we should get as much advice as possible from the instructor, clarify all requirements of the project, and well design the project in top level before subgroup starts their job. This could also prevent any misunderstanding of the project.

In addition, we should have shown ourselves more to the team about what each member was good at which field and not good at which part. Then, if one member was not able to complete one part, the other member could help him or take over the job.

We didn't really clarify every member's responsibilities. Our team didn't have a project leader, only a documentation coordinator that was responsible for all the documentation compilation and communication among team members and with the instructor on behalf of the team. We will consider have two leaders, one for each subgroup, and be in charge of the final decision and responsibilities. And the leader for the software subgroup will make final decision for any changes during the testing and debugging. Any other member should try their best to suggest and offer any help.

In sum, if we have the chance to do the project again, we should complete in a different way. However, whether we can efficiently organize and make full use of every member's knowledge, passion, and skills will be the important indicator of how much we will succeed in the coming projects.