

TEAM 8

PROJECT 2

TEAM ORGANIZATION EVALUATION AND PLANS

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Objective

We are required to submit a document evaluating our team based on how well our team organization worked and our future plans depending on the conclusion derived from this evaluation.

Overall appraisal

Our aim, with the assigned team organization and task allocation, was to improve our performance than the that of our previously demonstrated project. To aid the improvement we had changed the team organization by dividing the team into two sub-teams namely, hardware and software, consisting of two people each; with one “more experienced” (i.e. one who had already done hardware/software in the last project) person in each team so as to assist the other person.

The above-mentioned organization worked well for us for several reasons stated as following:

- There was atleast one person, from each sub-team, available when any crucial decisions regarding hardware/software were made.
- In case one of the sub-team member was not available for the allocated task the other person would carried on to meet the required deadline/modification.
- Since there are two people in each time, it was possible to divide the tasks between the two, which reduced the burden on each person.

Overall, our team performed reasonably well with two light bulbs in our pocket. Our hardware design was simple and flexible enough to be changed any time and still be intact during the period of demonstration. Our major goal was to give highest priority to escape the big obstacles, which our software team accomplished perfectly well; we did not hit the obstacles at

any instance. After the demonstration, we felt that we might have done better by incorporating some randomness in the robot's reaction and if it was "simple enough" to implement some more behavior fusion; when the robot got stuck with the obstacle and the light bulb both right in front of it.

Future Plans

We unanimously agree that this team organization worked well for us, so we do not plan to change the team organization for next project, but we would change the allocation of tasks to the members and shuffle the people around to different sub-teams. Also, considering the small problems that arose during our earlier projects, we may probably incorporate the following issues.

- One person should be assigned with the job of settling the disputes, in case if any arise.
- We have to decide in what cases, the software team can ask for any changes in the hardware midway through the project and how those changes should be executed in case if hardware people are not available.

Final word

Even though we are not completely satisfied with our demonstration, we would say that it went well with the class average of two light bulbs too. After this project, we realize that for the robot to be autonomous, the most important (and most challenging) issue to deal is the behavior fusion.