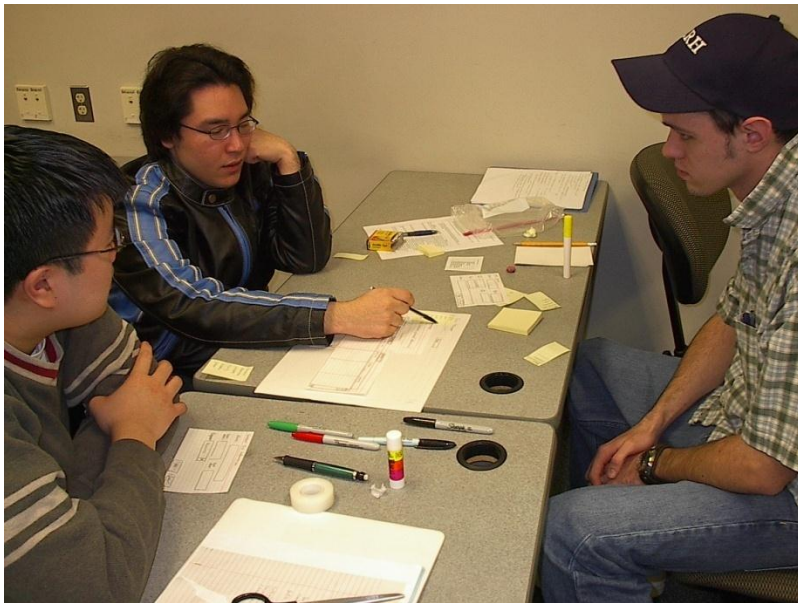


Working As a Team

(As Opposed to Working “In” a Team)





River Hill Ice Hawks 2006-2007

So, Why Work As a Team?

Exercise, Part 1



- Write the following on a sheet of paper:
 - Height (nearest half-inch)
 - Skittles
 - Bridge (nearest foot)
- Write down your guesses for each (no talking!)

Exercise, Part 2

- Get into teams of four
- I'll give you team numbers
- Write the following on one sheet of paper:
 - Your team number (also put on your individual papers)
 - Height (nearest half-inch)
 - Skittles
 - Bridge (nearest foot)
- Come up with team guesses for each (discuss)
- Come up to the front and show me your individual and team papers when you are done (I'll keep the individual guesses anonymous)



Ms. Mitchell's Height



Rehoboth Beach, Summer 2006

Skittles



1,002

Golden Gate Bridge



Connects San Francisco
(on the south) to Marin
County (on the north)

Total length: 8,981 feet

Longest span: 4,200 feet

Width: 90 feet

Height: 746 feet

Opening Date: May 27, 1937

Number of Suicides: about 1,300 as
of 2003 (unofficial)

Wikipedia, accessed 8/17/07

Exercise, Part 3

- Statistics

- What did you discover?

- What points of view or information did others on your team have that you did not?
- Did you change your mind about your individual guess? Why?
- Did you find that you compromised? Was that OK?
- Did anyone have a really “wild” answer? How might a “wild” answer help the team?

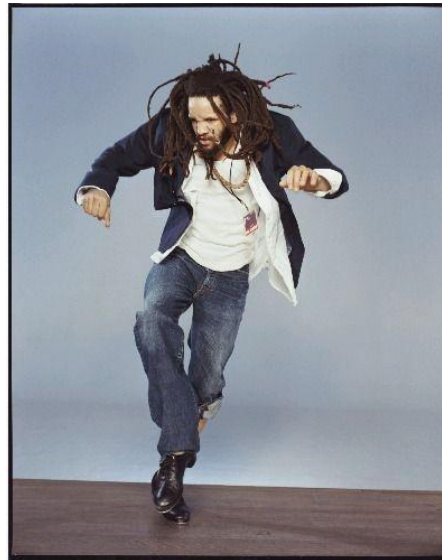
Some Characteristics of a “Good” Team

- Variety of complementary skills and viewpoints (**diversity**)
- Members are able to remain relatively uninfluenced by other team members when coming up with ideas and solutions (**independence**)
- Members are able to successfully **aggregate** their ideas

The Wisdom of Crowds, by James Surowiecki, Doubleday, 2005.

Everyone Has Value

- What skills do you have?
- How can they be used on your team in this class?



Personal Goals as a Team Member (1)

- Be “egoless”
- Be committed to the team
- Be a good listener
- Be open to new ideas and viewpoints
- Learn to compromise
- Don't be intimidated - your input is valuable
- Be honest

Personal Goals (2)

- Be fair - learn to give and take
- Don't point fingers - everyone is equally responsible for everything
- Trust your teammates, but do not assume that everything will go smoothly
- Don't take things too seriously
- Stay healthy

Getting Started (1)

- Exchange information (e.g., e-mail, phone numbers)
- List everyone's skills (not just CS skills - everyone has value)
- List everyone's preferences
- List everyone's constraints (e.g., live off campus, written/verbal English skills)

Getting Started (2)

- Take time to decide your roles (you may change roles later if you really need to, but let me know ASAP)
 - See **Job Descriptions** on web site under Resources link
- Set up a communications strategy (Team Facilitator implements)
 - Next Century wiki

Getting Started (3)

- Decide on how/when/where you are going to meet (at least one regular meeting a week suggested)
 - Have an agenda that is distributed before the meeting
 - Have a scribe
 - Leave the meeting with definite individual goals and assignments (with definite dates)
 - Distribute meeting notes

Getting Started (4)

- Arrange your first customer meeting
 - We'll talk about this more
 - Have an agenda
 - Let the customer know the agenda
 - Take notes
 - Let customer know how/when you will be in contact next and what information you expect to have

If Things Go Wrong ...

- First, try hard to work things out within the team
- If you have reached an impasse, come see me



References

- Surowiecki, J., *The Wisdom of Crowds: Why the Many Are Smarter Than the Few and How Collective Wisdom Shapes Business, Economies, Societies and Nations*. 2005, New York: Doubleday.