Building a website for Women in Technology

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Project Purpose:

- Improve the online presence throughout the website

- Create improved solutions for membership

- Streamlining social media presence and enhancing the online capability

- Improve the efficiency of the engagement processes so that we can better engage with the current/future members

- Developing an entire system that is mobile-friendly

- Enhance user experience for a greater number of members

Project Concept:

Currently AUT has a page on their website for Women in Technology. This page has a list of Events and Meetup Groups, each having a name, short description and link to their website or Facebook page. At the bottom of the existing page, there is an embedded Youtube video featuring AUT Women in Tech. The existing webpage does not provide the opportunity for members to sign up, a members database, or an option to join a newsletter which informs members of upcoming tech events.

We were asked to create a website for female students and staff to engage with female role models in the industry. We provide both a front end side with information for women in technology as well as a backend side where students and staff can register to be involved.
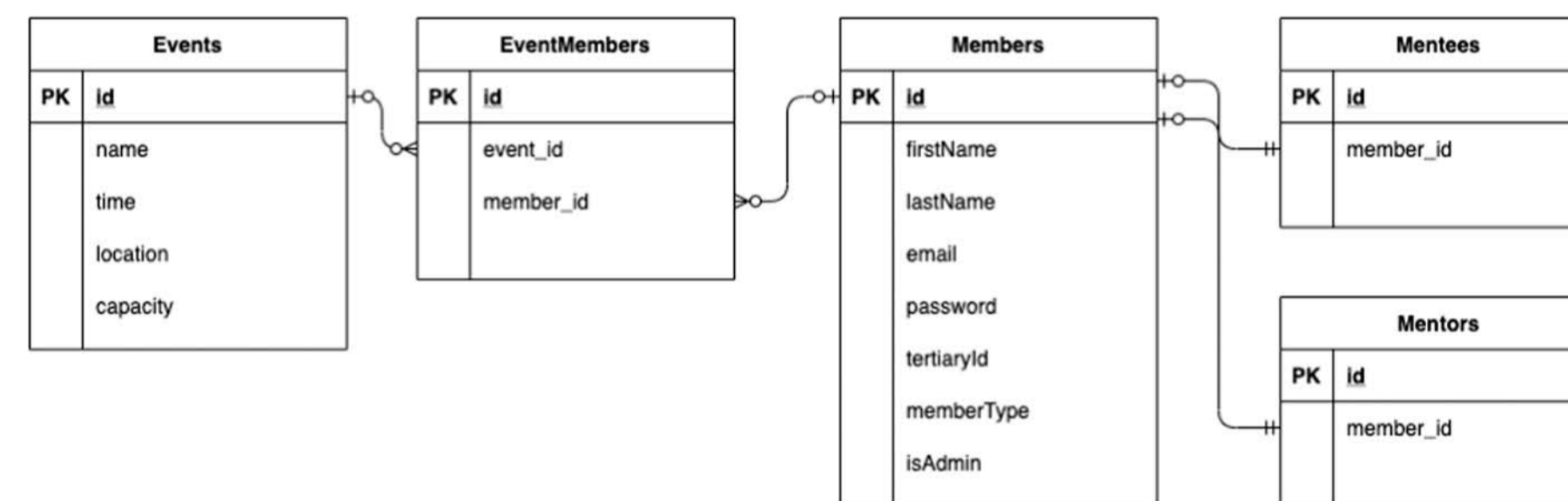
Some issues that we ran into with this project was ensuring that this website fitted within the AUT guidelines. As this website will be hosted on AUT's website in the future, we needed to ensure that measures were taken to follow AUT branding and styling guidelines. This included using AUT styling packs within our website design..

We also needed to take into consideration the development style of the existing AUT website to ensure that the handover at the end of this project is as seamless as possible. Documenting each step of the planning and development process was crucial to ensure that this project can be handed over to a new team at its completion.

Other issues that the team encountered was ensuring that our data was managed and stored in a secure manner. Our database of AUT Women in Tech members contains sensitive information that we cannot afford to have compromised. As a result of this, we completed significant security research on the best way of storing our data and hosting our website in order to make sure there is no security threat.

Methods:

Briefly describe your approach, the experiments, investigations or procedures followed. Use figures and flow charts to illustrate your experimental design if possible. Consider including a photograph, diagram or illustration. Mention any statistical or other analyses undertaken. This section should focus on how your project's artefacts were produced: include a critical review of the team method and processes adopted in carrying out the project, including quality assurance identifying what worked well and what did not. Your critique should relate any insights to relevant literature. Issues related to the effectiveness of communication processes, team and personal or professional strategies could be covered.

The entire project's development follows agile methods with the scrum style as the core and emphasizes team communication and communication with clients. Prioritize the client's needs to formulate goals for the subsequent sprint, allowing the clients to make changes from the initial proposal in a loop if the customer wants. If there are any improvements needed, Agile methodology overcomes the possibility of wasting too much time (Keita, 2020). During the project, weekly online meetings are held, and Trello is the scrum board to follow up and manage the project. All relevant personnel can supervise and view customers and mentors. And all the project documents are in Google Drive shared by the team. To ensure the quality, each research data is required to be checked by each member.

The research followed by the AUT Women in Tech website's development includes Financial Analysis, Security Research, Existing Website Research, WordPress Analysis, Website Hosting Analysis, Skill Analysis. The function implemented by the website is based on user stories created by customers. The total number of users completed in each Sprint will generate burndown charts and Gantt charts. These charts are used to confirm and track the team's progress to ensure that the project will not fall behind.
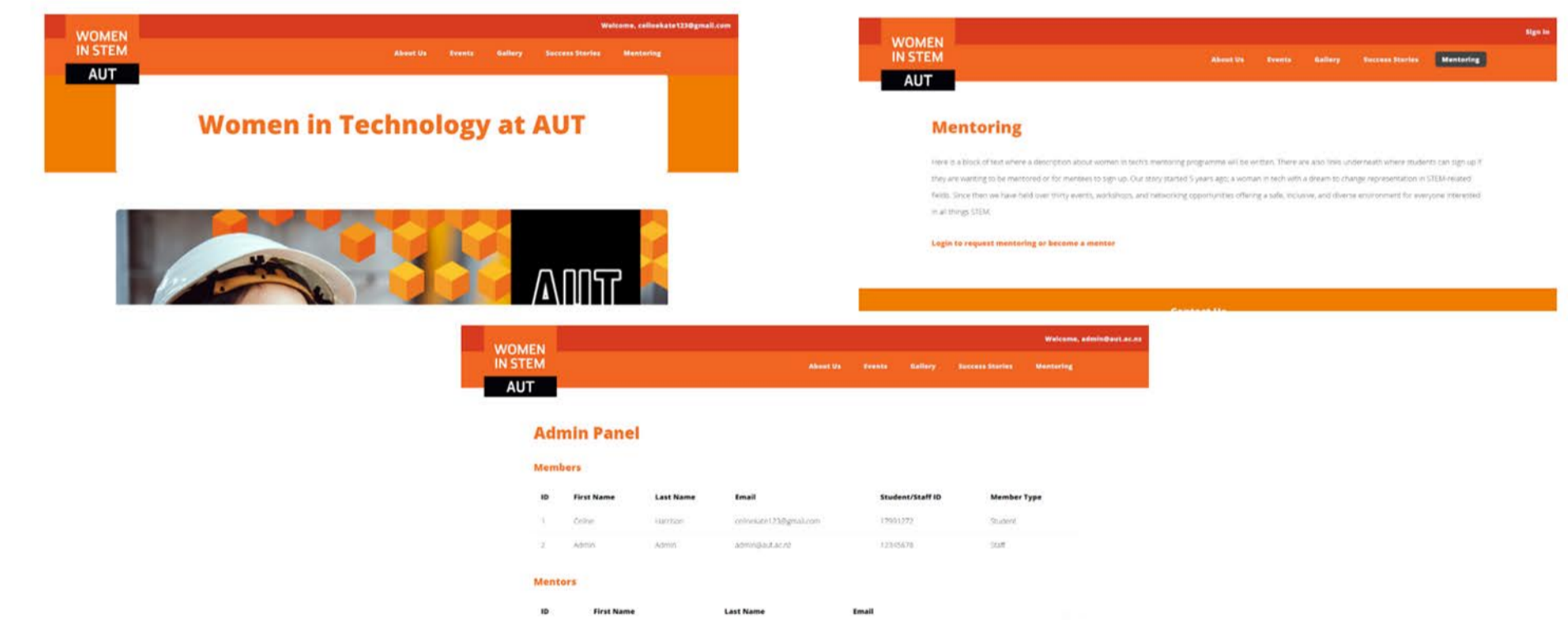
Challenges:

We had faced some technical difficulties with the environment set up, in particular the difference between our local environment setups where we could replicate a server, the master branch environment on our repository, and then the production environment. The issues with local environment setup pushed back the progress quite a bit as we were often unable to get the server running and would have to be coding 'blind' without getting to see the webpage. Fortunately this issue was able to be resolved towards the end of the project so the backend features could be implemented.

Results:

The result is a website dedicated to serving all women of AUT in the technical field and taking on the role of publicity. The website adopts orange as the primary color, uses the traditional AUT logo, and avoids the use of pink and other colors that have inherent cognition to women, hoping to show the website Attitude and keep consistent with AUT's website traditional style. The website has the primary function pages of Event, Gallery, Success Stories, Mentoring, and About Us in terms of functions. It has essential member login and registration functions. The back-end connection server is used to store user registration information.

The overall website structure is different from the initial draft. The main reason is that the client's opinions during the project changed the screen layout and content research of the website's initial design. Upholding to respect client' needs, these changes are often the most important and will be changed first. Therefore, when designing the initial prototype, it is possible to expand the research scope to more freely respond to changes in the project.

Our final product is accessible at: **https://womenintech.co.nz/**

Acknowledgements:

References:

Keita, B. (2020). What are the reasons behind Agile popularity? | Why Agile is So Popular. Retrieved from: https://www.invensislearning.com/blog/reasons-behind-agile-popularity/#Why_is_Agile_so_popular