> **Assignment**
>
> *In this introductory part, I would like to find out whether you have ever participated in a project – either actively or passively.*
>
> *Write a short paper on your participation at a project (at work or school). Provide the following information:*
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> *Name, duration, focus, your role, your "feelings" (how did you perceive the project), project outcomes.*

My participation at a project

At work

In my job I have participated in a large number of projects, but mostly as an individual software developer without wider cooperation with other team members. Most of the time I work alone on specific tasks that I plan and manage myself. I like this on my job because I can manage my time and tasks every day, and the work is often different.

Selected project

- Name: IoT Network
- Duration: 3 years
- Focus: Complete responsibility for development and implementation of Starnet IoT network project in the Czech Republic (https://iot.starnet.cz/, https://www.starnet.cz/iot/)
- My roles (formally in my CV): Head of IoT Development

Description:

About six years ago I started to work on my largest project in my job. Because of lack of people in our firm, I had to accept several roles I was in. For instance, I worked as a project manager and product backlog manager (Product owner in Scrum terminology), as well as HW/SW developer. I was leading small IoT development team with several people (2 colleagues + 3 externs + interns), I planned everyone's work, tested the results (acceptance testing) and communicated with our other suppliers.

Next to that I was making the complete analysis over this project, collected and processed requests from customers (wrote SRS[1]) and system integrators. As a software developer I designed some electronic parts for this project, for example I completely designed the PCB[2] for our LoRa gateway and built the most software components for it too. I also provided technical support to our partners and customers.

In that time, I was studying field Information systems at the University of Ostrava. It was very helpful to me, because I could use much knowledge about agile development, use recommended best-practice and avoid common mistakes in managing this project.

Over time I adapted the development process, we implemented new tools too. I managed the project using multiple frameworks, methodologies and techniques, for example according to Scrum and Kanban, we also used some parts from Extreme Programming, e. g. TDD[3] (unit testing with writing the tests first).

The outcome of the project was a functional IoT network covering a larger part of the Czech Republic, based on own LoRa gateways, a web portal for customers and developer community, several IoT sensors for demonstration of functionality... We were creating functional solution which was used by several customers in a testing run. I enjoyed it because we moved the project every day forward and there was a lot of finished work.

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[1] Software requirements specification (SRS)
[2] Printed Circuit Board (PCB)
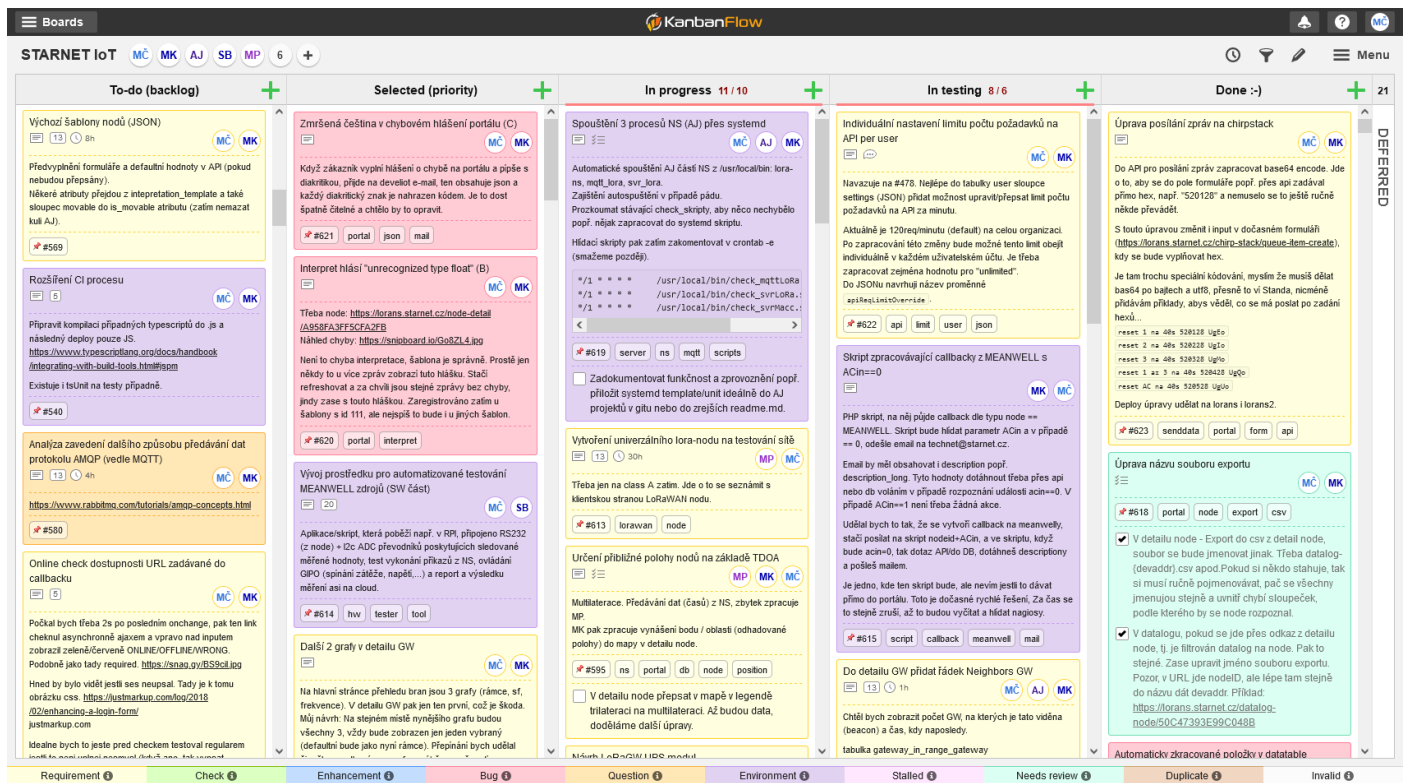[3] Test-driven development (TDD)

Figure 1 – A snapshot of our kanban board of this project

After three years some priorities in our company were changed and my main developer was moved to another project (he expanded another development team for the corporate information system). Others of us were gradually moved to other projects too. From this time, we just kept the project going.

A few months ago, this project was quietly canceled. It was a decision of our high management because it was unprofitable in a long term. Maybe the sales department just was not able to find the right sales channels or the market did not offer a sufficient number of customers who would use the service for the money (not for free in a testing run).

I later summarized all my experience from this project in my final thesis of my MBA study entitled "Implementation of agile processes in a small team" which I successfully defended in 2019.

Out of work

Finally, five months ago, I started my personal project focused on my English, because I would like to travel to USA in the next year. Well, I consider it as a project because it is time limited activity (duration is 12 months) with defined goals – surviving alone in foreign country and being able to communicate with local people in the most common situations (travelling, navigating, shopping, …). We regularly work on my poor skills together with my teacher individually with an effort to improve them. So, my role in this project (in the team with two members) is a student. :-) We focus not only on talking but on grammar too using different activities and exercises – talking, listening to the videos, writing short essays about selected topics, etc. My feelings are usually positive because I know it is useful for me and I see that I have already learned a lot of new knowledge. At last, I can also talk with someone about different topics, which I consider useful or funny to me. Sometimes later when I'm alone at home working on notes from lessons, I often feel embarrassed because I realize a lot of mistakes which I made face to face. But I'm glad that I involve myself to this personal project. As outcomes, I can definitely cite "less" shyness and fear of speaking, expanding vocabulary and making fewer mistakes in sentences and extending my awareness of English grammar.
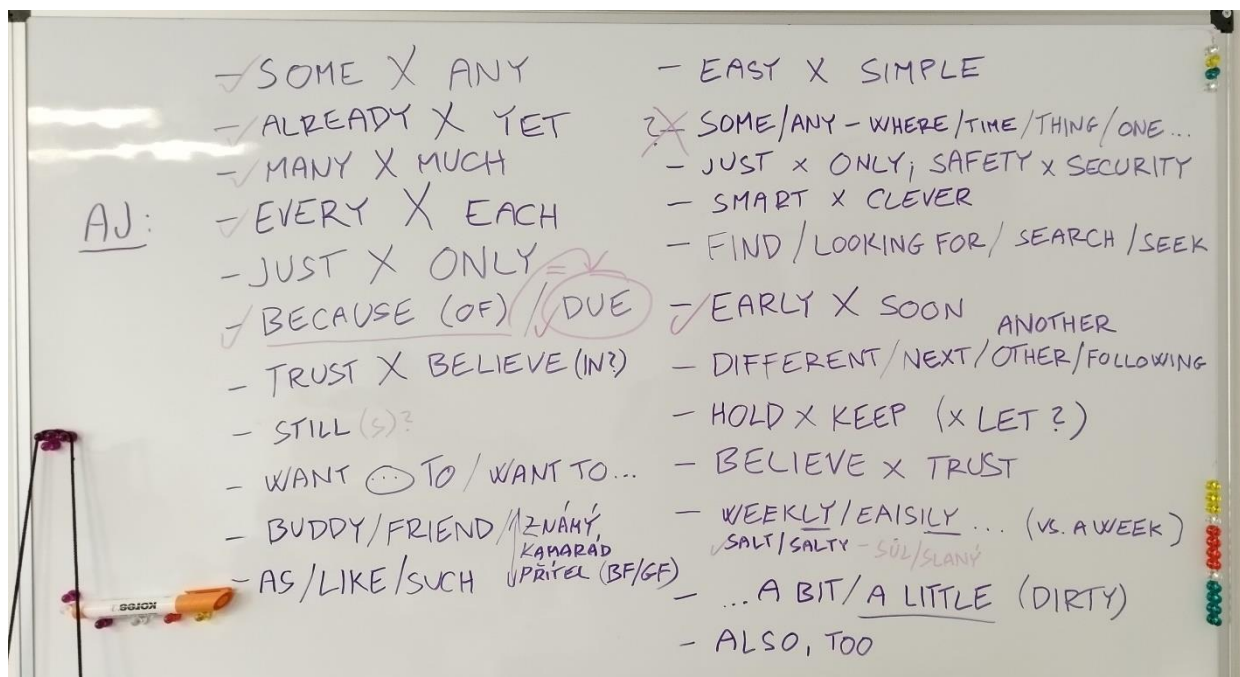
Figure 2 – Quick questions whiteboard in my office :)