

# Experience Report - NetHunt

## Difficulties

One of the first tasks in our project was to understand the mechanics of FlatHunt in order to properly manipulate the classes and features to serve our purpose. Since FlatHunt is a relatively complexly written program with not as many comments on its features as it could have, it took a while to follow the way of each feature during its execution.

Another difficulty was to create a server-client connection in order to build a functioning communication. Although Eiffel features a few examples on network communication, those examples don't work without editing and neither their features nor the official help documentation were of much help concerning the "How exactly is it done" question.

While most problems occurred in relation with programming, an important factor was the communication within the group while mouth to mouth talk was not possible. As described in the following few lines, we used several methods to stay in touch.

## Tools of Communication

Even in a project of relatively small complexity, one of the hardest thing is to constantly have an overview over the project. This task gets even harder as soon as several people are involved. Coordination was a major concern and different ways of coordinating the work of all group members while direct contact was not possible have been tried:

- First and most obvious method of coordination is to communicate via an instant messenger. The most common and wide-spread one is probably "ICQ". During the first few weeks, "ICQ" was used to talk about ideas for the project, how to conquer several occurring problems and the project status.
- After realizing "ICQ" was not the best tool to discuss with all group members, we then chose to use an "Internet Relais Channel" ("IRC") during several evenings each week to discuss the problems we encountered and find a way to solve those problems.

- A third method of communication was the use of the communication software “Skype” which allows internet telecommunication. However, this method proved to be less suitable than a text-driven discussion.
- To coordinate all actions while not directly in contact with other group members, our group decided to create a forum to reserve classes for editing, publish changes within classes and update the project.

### **Experience of Programming as a Group:**

All group members agree that after testing several communication tools and working into the material, working as a group was a major factor of realizing this project. Especially in situations of confusion about program text or compile errors, all group members tried to help each other. Additionally, talking to the group eventually created new ideas on how to encounter future problems while still working on the basics of the program.

All in all, the project helped giving a first impression of what the creation of larger programs in an industrial context could feel like and definitively enhanced our skills in programming.