

Rogue Two - Final Reflection Paper

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Company: Capital One

How we implemented scrum as a team

Within the whole semester, we got a taste of designing prototypes with Google Design Sprint, tracking progress as an Agile Scrum team (with JIRA), and collaborating codes in GitHub.

As a team, we decided our regular schedule at the beginning of the semester that we would meet with the team every Sunday (and Thursday during the lecture), and meet with our mentors every Monday.

At the very beginning, we only have a broad idea of how to use sprints and how to split stories. So, we write our issues in a very vague way like “play with Google Map API”, without any description or specific story. During the first and second weeks of meeting with our mentors, they taught us how they use scrum in real-work environment and what is a good issue. After learning from their experience, we have a clearer mind of what we should expect as an Agile Scrum team. Hence, we form our own pace of doing the schedule in the following manner:

- I. During Sundays, we often do a quick overview of what we’ve finished in the past week, push the finished codes on GitHub, and brainstorm what’s the plan for next week.
- II. After reaching an agreement with each other, we will update our own Backlog on the Agile Board in two steps:
 - A. Update old issues (if needed) with what hasn’t been finished, move it to a new sprint with detailed explanations of what’s done and what’s undone.
 - B. Create new issues for the next sprint with an informative but concise title, a detailed description (including a full story for the issue, the acceptance criteria, and some notes), and an assignee.
- III. When we meet with our mentors on Mondays, we will show our progress to them, ask technical questions, and seek advice about our plan for the new week.

Using scrum to keep track of what we should do and what we have done is very convenient and efficient. We also learned about setting the story estimates, but we haven’t got the chance to fully implement that function. Our mentor also suggested us not planning too much ahead if we cannot finish them all in one week, and this is something we will pay more attention to in the future. Overall, we implemented scrum in a decent way, and we appreciated its beauty as a well-known working pattern.

What worked well

1. Division of labour according to strengths and equal work
2. Regular check ins with our mentors and implementation of their advice
3. Realistic short term and long term goals
4. Ability to hit deadlines
5. Decision making and communication

What went wrong

1. Using and checking in on our Jira boards
2. Never implemented Scrum Master, Product Owner, etc - this would have been helpful in keeping tasks and stories cohesive between front and back end
3. Struggled with Github pull requests for the first half of the semester
4. Should have merged front end and back end sooner
5. Kanban made us realise we had too much work in progress in our Jira sprints.

How we might modify our approach if we were to continue working on this project

From our initial brainstorm, we have a bunch of other features that interest us, but in lower-priority due to time limitation, which includes adding galleries to each business, offering comment spaces and rating features, etc.

Besides, we didn't build our database from scratch, but took advantage of some open source data from other APIs. It would be a valuable approach if we could build the database on our own with new research and market investigation.

Also, it would be a good idea to introduce dynamical synchronization to our app, so that the user could receive different recommendations when they are moving around. This would let us learn other new technologies as our current tools don't support this easily.

Last but not least, we thought about interacting with other business actions, such as cooperating with delivery companies, to add extra functionalities to our app (more than seeking information). If this could come true, then it will be a big step with much more market value (according to our interviews with our prospective customers, this will be something they would love to see).