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4-3 Journal: Tester

The original user stories were made based on vague user requests. Having these requests broken down into smaller pieces allowed me to develop tests. Saying an application should have “user preferences” is harder to test than “user can save multiple preferred trip types”. It was also helpful viewing the example slideshow. This gave the team a better understanding of how a final product should be laid out. I’m glad the team took the time to break the stories into smaller, workable elements.

When developing revised test cases the communication with the product owner was invaluable. I found myself referring to email communications and previous meeting notes to develop appropriate pass/fail criteria. Even with their help, some items were still unclear. The biggest missing detail was the specifications for mobile devices. I understand why stakeholders see it as important. More people are using the internet on phones and tablets than ever before. I worry that without clear guidance this could lead to “overcommitting to the backlog”(Saini, 2024). More details about this mobile version are needed to help the team complete the project on time. Quickly deciding on mobile features is necessary.

To clarify these requirements someone on the team should reach out to the Product Owner. Since there are only a few questions I’ve elected to send the below email. Further communication or meetings may happen depending on the response.

Sample Email:

Subject: 15 Minutes - Clarification on SNHU Product Requirements for Sprint Testing

Dear Product Owner,

I appreciate your clarification on the last round of testing. We are currently revising our test cases to incorporate these requirements. Before the next round of tests, I’d like more information about the mobile application and top destinations page.

1. Would you like the mobile app to also show destinations as a slideshow? Or would you like a scroll bar, which is typically more mobile-friendly?
2. When a user is not logged in what sort of trips would you like destinations to show? A few options include the most booked trips, the highest-rated trips, or a list curated by the marketing team.

Answering these questions before next Friday would help ensure our sprint stays on track. Please let me know if there’s any other way I can assist with the project. I am excited for you to see its progress!

**References**

Saini, S. (2024). *Top 5 pitfalls of new product owners and how to avoid them*. Scrum.org. https://www.scrum.org/resources/blog/top-5-pitfalls-new-product-owners-and-how-avoid-them

Su, J. (2023, July 27). *How to Write Better Emails at Work*. Harvard Business Review. https://hbr.org/2021/08/how-to-write-better-emails-at-work