Individual Reflection

Cristal Campos Abad

Week 2: 06/09 – 12/09

As a quick remark, this was my first week on the course since I joined late.

I'm hoping to learn how to properly work with other people in my same Agile team. More importantly, I joined my team and I'm really looking forward to working with them, since that will get me used to working with people that come from different backgrounds.

Some of my other objectives are to further improve my software design skills, from creating the mockup to further developing the code. Moreover, I believe one of my favorite video games makes use of the agile methodology, so that will definitely be a motivation boost, to see agile management used in "real life".

I also hope to give the best of me to the team and provide as much as I can, both to the project and to the rest of the team.

This week's work consisted of figuring out technicalities like which IDE to use, which language, etc., as well as trying to make it feel more of a team, organizing and getting to know each other. It's really interesting to see all the different work cultures mixed in a team, as we all like to work differently.

Week 3: 13/09 - 19/09

This week went by pretty quickly, as most of the effort was put into the epics and user stories, trying to reduce our scope to smaller tasks and manage everyone's role. Still, we divided the first tasks in two groups: database and map-related.

Trying to implement the map in React Native was hard, to say the least. There wasn't really much on the Internet about the topic, also because React is always changing and updating. Finally with the help of the rest of the team, we managed to get a map to show up on our phones!

Also, the database access was made with MySQL queries, letting us get all the public bathroom locations from Göteborgs Stad. The next step will be to fetch that data and add it as markers in the map.

On the topic of managing the weekly tasks and the sprints, I feel like we are lacking in terms of estimating the effort and time a task will require.

Week 4: 20/09 - 26/09

With the map implemented and the working access to the database, it still feels like there's a lot to do, but still being pretty ahead. It's a lot of work for 4 people, since our team is smaller than the rest, but I trust that we'll pull it off in the end.

I really want to learn how to properly use all these react modules that we have to use to make it work. It feels as if we're taking pieces of code and gluing them together.

This week I was not helpful at all, since my other course required so much of my time, but I hope to make it up to the team next week

Week 5: 27/09 - 03/10

This week I wasn't really stressed with other coursework, but it really stressed me out the fact that I couldn't get almost anything done. Most of my time was spent researching how to implement some things in React, but failing to do so. Although, I still consider that I made some progress, even if I didn't add anything of value to the app.

Seeing everybody working so hard despite also having another course kind of makes me feel like a liability to the team, so I hope in the last weeks I can maybe contribute something that gives more value to the product.

Also, this week I was the Scrum Master, but since I consider myself to be a really introverted and shy person, I had a tough time initiating the communication with the team. During one of our meetings, Gaëlle offered to lead the meeting, and honestly I appreciated the gesture, as it relieved some of my stress.

Week 6: 04/10 - 10/10

During this week, we faced quite a lot of problems with sharing the code, specially because of GitHub. It was really difficult to use it with this project in particular. Again, I couldn't really complete many tasks, because of stress and personal reasons, and because it felt like reaching the end of a road: I would read about what I had to do, but nothing seemed to work like it was supposed to, and there wasn't a solution anywhere.

I would like to learn to search better (mainly because I think it's one of my problems) and to properly use React.

Week 7: 11/10 - 16/10

This week's focus was on making the project more "deliverable" to a potential customer. That information dawned on every one of us during this time, so we acted accordingly and added more tasks related to that.

I would like to learn how to deliver an app and make it as easy as possible to install, and take care of the dependencies before doing so, thus minimizing the work the client has to do to actually install the app.

I feel that I would bring more value to the team if I spent more hours researching on implementations and things, but as I said before, it's not really possible for me to do so with my other course. Luckily, my teammates weren't too taken aback by that and actually understood my situation as some of them took the course before.

Week 8: 17/10 - 22/10

This last week was mentally the hardest for me, as I hade lots of problems with that other course (my lab partner dropping out a few days before the deadline). I wasn't able to focus on the project and didn't add much to the team nor help them with anything they didn't know.

I want to learn to better manage my time, since that has been a problem since the start. Also to properly program in JavaScript, since I already had lots of experience with it, but not with React, so expanding my knowledge is something I'd really like. If we could start the project over, I'd do it in a heartbeat. Even though our Trello was really nicely done and with almost not an error, I would like to try and manage it differently. Definitely something I'm doing in my next project.

Despite the hardships, this course has helped me better understand a project's timeline, as well as development. It also has given me the drive to start thinking of my next project, and has made me really excited about it.