

ADDIS ABABA SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT OF SOFTWARE ENGINEERING SOFTWARE COMPONENT DESIGN ASSIGNMENT 1

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Submitted to Mr. Gizate Submission date Dec 2024

Front-End Design with Figma

Purpose of Using Figma

Figma is a web-based design tool chosen for this project due to its collaborative features, ease of use, and ability to create high-quality mockups and interactive prototypes. It plays a critical role in visualizing the user interface (UI) and user experience (UX) before implementation, ensuring the design aligns with user needs and functional requirements.

Features and Capabilities of Figma

1. Wireframing and Prototyping

- **Wireframes**: Used to define the structure and layout of key screens at a low-fidelity level
- **Interactive Prototypes**: Enabled simulation of user interactions to visualize the flow between screens.

2. Collaboration Tools

- Real-Time Collaboration: Allowed multiple team members to work on designs simultaneously.
- **Commenting**: Simplified feedback collection by enabling users to leave comments directly on designs.
- Version History: Tracked all changes to designs, allowing for easy reversion to earlier versions if needed.

3. Cross-Platform Accessibility

 Accessible from any device with an internet connection, ensuring flexibility for remote collaboration.

4. Design System Support

- Reusable Components: Created consistent UI elements such as buttons, input fields, and navigation bars.
- **Style Guide Management**: Maintained consistent color schemes, fonts, and spacing across all screens.

Deliverables Created with Figma

1. Key Screens

a. Login Page

- Components: Input fields for email/password, "Forgot Password" link, and login button.
- **Design Focus**: A clean, minimal interface to simplify user onboarding.

b. Home Page

- Components: Navigation bar, translation options, and recent activities.
- **Design Focus**: An intuitive layout for quick access to primary functionalities.

c. Translation Page

- **Components**: Input text field, language selection dropdown, and translated text output section.
- **Design Focus**: User-friendly interface for seamless language translation.

d. Settings Page

- Components: Account management, security settings, and feedback sections.
- **Design Focus**: Customizable options for user preferences.

2. Prototypes

- Simulated user navigation between pages (e.g., Login → Home → Settings).
- Validated usability and user experience through testing.

3. Iterative Updates

- Incorporated user feedback to enhance:
 - Accessibility: Improved contrast and readability.
 - **Usability**: Adjusted button placements and workflows for better navigation.

How Figma Supported Agile Methodology

Figma seamlessly integrated with the Agile approach by:

1. Facilitating Iterative Design:

- Rapidly updated wireframes and prototypes during sprints.
- Enabled guick validation of user stories and requirements.

2. Supporting Sprint Reviews:

- Shared prototypes with stakeholders for feedback after each sprint.
- Provided visual deliverables to demonstrate sprint progress.

3. Enhancing Collaboration:

- o Allowed designers, developers, and stakeholders to work together in real time.
- Reduced communication gaps and ensured alignment on design goals.

Advantages of Using Figma

1. Collaboration:

- Encouraged teamwork through real-time design sharing and editing.
- Simplified feedback loops with commenting and version history.

2. Efficiency:

- Reduced development time by providing developers with clear, interactive references.
- Improved design consistency with reusable components and a shared style guide.

3. Accessibility:

 Cross-platform access ensured flexibility for remote work and stakeholder involvement.

4. User-Centric Design:

 Prototypes allowed early testing and validation of user workflows, ensuring the final design met user needs.

Conclusion

Figma was a vital tool in this project, enabling the creation of visually appealing and user-friendly interfaces. Its collaboration features and ability to integrate seamlessly with Agile methodology ensured efficient, iterative design processes, resulting in high-quality deliverables that aligned with user and stakeholder expectations.

Agile Methodology in Software Development

Purpose of Using Agile

The Agile methodology was selected for this project to enable iterative development, enhance team collaboration, and ensure flexibility in adapting to user feedback and evolving requirements. Agile focuses on delivering incremental value through frequent releases, making it ideal for projects that require rapid development and continuous improvement.

Key Principles of Agile Methodology

1. Iterative and Incremental Development:

- Software is developed and delivered in smaller, manageable increments.
- o Each increment includes functional components that provide value to users.

2. Collaboration:

- Promotes close interaction between cross-functional teams (developers, designers, and stakeholders).
- Facilitates continuous communication to align goals and expectations.

3. Customer Feedback:

- o Integrates user feedback at the end of each sprint to refine deliverables.
- Ensures the product meets the needs of end-users effectively.

4. Adaptability:

- Emphasizes responding to change rather than adhering rigidly to a pre-defined plan.
- Supports evolving project requirements without derailing progress.

5. Transparency:

- Encourages regular updates on project progress through sprint reviews and standups.
- Ensures all stakeholders have visibility into the development process.

Agile Process in This Project

1. Sprint Planning

- Objective: Define the goals for each sprint and prioritize tasks from the backlog.
- Deliverables: A sprint backlog detailing specific features to implement.
- **Duration**: Each sprint lasts two weeks.

2. Daily Standups

- Purpose: Facilitate team collaboration by:
 - Discussing completed tasks.
 - o Identifying blockers.
 - o Planning tasks for the day.
- **Duration**: 15 minutes.

3. Sprint Execution

- Activities:
 - Development of software components based on prioritized user stories.
 - Collaborative problem-solving for technical challenges.
- Tools:
 - Figma for design deliverables.
 - Jira for tracking tasks and progress.

4. Sprint Review

- **Objective**: Demonstrate completed deliverables to stakeholders.
- Activities:
 - Showcasing prototypes (e.g., wireframes from Figma).
 - o Collecting feedback to improve subsequent iterations.

5. Sprint Retrospective

- **Objective**: Reflect on the sprint to identify areas for improvement.
- Activities:
 - Discuss what went well, what didn't, and actionable changes.
 - Plan enhancements for team processes in the next sprint.

Key Artifacts in Agile

1. Product Backlog

- A prioritized list of features, enhancements, and fixes required for the project.
- Example Backlog Items:
 - Create user authentication system.
 - Develop translation functionality.
 - Design interactive user interface in Figma.

2. Sprint Backlog

- Tasks selected from the product backlog for implementation during a sprint.
- Example Sprint Tasks:
 - o Implement login functionality.
 - Build translation input/output components.
 - o Integrate Figma wireframes into the application.

3. Increment

- A functional piece of the software delivered at the end of a sprint.
- Example: A prototype with a working login page and basic translation functionality.

Roles in Agile

1. Product Owner

 Responsible for maintaining the product backlog and ensuring it aligns with user needs and business goals.

2. Scrum Master

- Facilitates the Agile process and ensures the team adheres to Agile principles.
- Removes blockers and promotes team efficiency.

3. Development Team

 A cross-functional group responsible for designing, developing, testing, and delivering the product.

Tools Supporting Agile in This Project

- 1. Jira:
 - Used for sprint planning, backlog management, and tracking progress.
- 2. Figma:
 - Supports iterative design and enables feedback integration during sprint reviews.
- 3. GitHub:
 - Provides version control and collaboration for source code management.

How Agile Aligns with This Project

- 1. Iterative Design and Development:
 - Each sprint delivers a functional increment, such as a working UI prototype or a translation feature.
- 2. Continuous Feedback:
 - Stakeholder input during sprint reviews guides future development.
- 3. Flexibility to Adapt:
 - Agile's adaptability allows the team to incorporate design changes from Figma or feedback on translation accuracy.
- 4. Collaboration:
 - Real-time collaboration through tools like Figma and Jira enhances productivity and alignment across the team.

Benefits of Using Agile

- 1. User-Centric Development:
 - o Ensures deliverables are tailored to user needs through regular feedback.
- 2. Improved Quality:
 - Frequent testing and validation reduce bugs and ensure reliability.
- 3. Faster Delivery:
 - Incremental releases enable quicker delivery of functional components.

4. Team Efficiency:

o Clear goals, regular standups, and retrospectives improve productivity and focus.

Conclusion

The Agile methodology has been instrumental in driving the project forward. Its iterative approach, combined with tools like Figma and Jira, enabled efficient collaboration, rapid prototyping, and continuous improvement. This ensured that the final deliverables were both functional and aligned with user expectations.