Behind the Scenes of Sprint 4

Introduction

As we complete our project's fourth sprint, it is essential to look back and analyze our progress in this postmortem analysis. The objective of this project is to develop a condo management website and its companion mobile app for potential buyers, condo owners and condo management companies. The core structure of this application is an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system, which encompasses various functionalities such as user profile creation, a reservation system,a management system, and a financial system.

During this sprint, our main goal was to complete the entire web and mobile platforms. As team members are familiarizing with the technologies used throughout the past sprints, sprint 4 went relatively smoother.

When reflecting on this sprint's outcome, we were proud of our progress but still believe that there is room for improvement. Among various achievements, we had less problems with our branch merges, we used pull requests instead of force merging branches like in sprint 2, we refined the documentations and finished the web and mobile apps. As the end of the sprint is approaching, we have a better understanding of the Agile refinement process and the areas that the team needs to work on. We will also be working on tying up any loose ends before the deployment and the product presentation for sprint 5.

After filling out a retrospective board anonymously, we saw that there was a mutual agreement concerning our organization. Although it has significantly improved from last sprint, there is still some confusion about the overlap of our individual tasks. In other words, it is sometimes unclear as to who does which task which may affect us doing our tasks as we are sometimes waiting on others.

What went wrong

1 - Lack of Organization

Throughout the fourth sprint, team members were often busy with assignments and other projects as the semester is coming to an end in less than a month. Once again, everyone had very different schedules which made it challenging to assign tasks as we were often unavailable to hold a meeting altogether with all the members. The impact of this was that we still ended up with some unfinished tasks for which we will have to catch up on in sprint 4. There was a lot of confusion as well as of what was completed and what was left to be done.

We addressed it by holding small meetings with whichever members were available at the chosen time and so we were able to assign most of the tasks. However, it would have been better to hold more frequent meetings to update each other on what is left to be done.

2 - Lack of Communication

Throughout the previous sprints, team members, as mentioned before, had widely differing schedules. In addition, as we are approaching the end of the semester, members are juggling multiple team projects, assignments and the preparation for the final exams at the same time. The impact of this was that progress was slow because members were not always available or present to answer questions or to offer help when needed.

We addressed it by holding ourselves more accountable this sprint. Members made an effort to be more active in order to help each other out when needed. However, it would have been better to be more active since the start as this has delayed our progress already.

What went right

1 - Having a Clearer Idea of The Mobile Design

Throughout the fourth sprint, we were able to collectively come up with some sketches and templates of what we want our final UI design to look like for the website and the upcoming mobile app. The impact of this was that we better understood what needed to be added, removed or modified in the web app we were creating. Through this, our teamwork has gotten better and, even though we lacked communication, establishing our vision of the web app helped with the progress nonetheless.

However, it was tricky to figure out at first how much we needed to implement for the mobile app compared to the web app so we needed to ask the

2 - Having a Clearer Idea of What Tasks To Focus On

At the beginning of the fourth sprint, we had a meeting to discuss how we were going to proceed with sprint 4. We decided to split into sub-units who will work on different types of tasks. For example, two members were responsible for correcting and refining the documentations. Another few members worked on the mobile app while the rest worked on finishing up the web platform. That way, there was more collaboration between the teammates while ensuring that we are covering everything that needs to be done.

However, we did not hold each other accountable enough so we ended up doing some of the tasks at the last minute.

Conclusion

While reflecting on the fourth sprint, we realized that we encountered multiple challenges that originated from our lack of organization in terms of the tasks, still, and our lack of communication. However, we tackled these problems by having a clearer picture of what is left to be done and who is doing what. Although our teamwork is not perfect, we are in a learning process to improve on it to the best of our ability. Things worked out better in sprint 5 than the previous one because we established earlier on what our vision was for what was to be done for this sprint. We got to refine the rough edges and we were able to bond a bit more which improved the team dynamic.

As for the last remaining sprint, we have learned many lessons that we will be applying for the rest of the project to ensure a smooth delivery and deployment. For example, we now know that we need to have a better idea of the tasks that are still to be completed so as to not further delay our project's delivery. We also learned that we need to be more communicative with each other because we need to clearly establish the tasks to be assigned and done for this sprint and for the next. By applying the lessons we learned, we will tackle future challenges being more informed and committed to developing the best product possible. We will also be able to carry on these newfound skills onto future projects.