Behind the Scenes of Sprint 5

# Introduction

As we complete our project’s fifth 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, finalise, and deploy the entire web and mobile platforms. As team members are familiarised with the technologies used throughout the past sprints, sprint 5 went relatively smoothly.

When reflecting on this sprint’s outcome, we were proud of our progress but still believe that there is room for improvement. Among various issues encountered, were build issues when deploying the various applications. We were able to adapt to these inconsistencies by working on different branches and merging them to resolve the various conflicting issues. Like in sprint 2, we used pull requests instead of directly merging to main branches, we refined the documentation 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 were able to tie up any loose ends before deployment and prepared the product presentation as hoped in the sprint 4 retrospective.

After filling out a retrospective board anonymously, we saw that there was a mutual agreement concerning our organisation. 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 communication

Throughout the fifth sprint, team members were often busy with assignments, other projects, and preparing for finals as it is the last few weeks of the semester. 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 encountered unnecessary merging issues since team members would start working on tasks without notifying others which caused a lot of time to be wasted trying to fix resulting merge and build conflicts.

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 - Deploying issues encountered

Throughout this last sprint as we started to deploy the WebApp using Vercel, we encountered many deployment failures. This was the result of lack of communication once again since we automated the deployment platform without considering many features that still needed to be fixed as well as many branching issues. This lack of communication can be attributed to the significant amount of projects due and preparation for finals, leaving every team member with different schedules which impacted the availability to hold frequent meetings to discuss task advancements and deployment status.

We addressed this issue by communicating towards the beginning and end of the sprint and dividing all the required tasks. Notably, the required fixes were discussed and implemented for the application to deploy successfully. However, it would have been better to have more frequent meetings from the beginning of the sprint, in order to prevent unnecessary overhead to fix merging, branching, and deployment issues.

# What went right

## 1 - Teamworking skills were improved

Throughout the fifth sprint, we were able to collectively work together to resolve issues caused by lack of communication. Although short in time, we were able to divide tasks and work on fixing issues in our codebase that were causing builds to fail and preventing us from successfully deploying our applications. Through this, our teamwork has gotten better and, even though we lacked communication, redirecting our focus on tasks that required immediate attention enabled us to successfully deploy our Web App.

However, it was tricky to figure out at first how to approach the existing issues in our codebase, we were nonetheless able to communicate and resolve the various inconsistencies.

## 2 - Prioritising tasks to ensure a successful deployment

At the beginning of the fifth sprint, we had a meeting to discuss how we were going to proceed with sprint 5. We decided to split into subgroups of members that will work on different types of tasks. For example, two members were responsible for correcting and refining the documentation. Others worked on fixing build issues, while the rest worked on finishing up the web and mobile platforms. That way, there was more collaboration between teammates while making sure that we were covering everything that needed to be done to ensure a successful deployment of the platforms.

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 fifth sprint, we realised that we encountered multiple challenges that originated from our lack of communication, in terms of the tasks. However, we tackled these problems by assigning subgroups of members to certain tasks to ensure successful deployment. Although our teamwork is not perfect, it has significantly improved by trying to communicate more often to the best of our abilities. Things worked out better in sprint 5 compared to previous ones since we established earlier on what our vision was for what was to be completed for this sprint. We got to refine the rough edges and we were able to bond a bit more which improved the team dynamic.

In this last sprint, looking back at the various sprints and resulting product, we have learned many lessons. Notably, the importance of communication, organisation, and teamwork are crucial when it comes to software development, in a team-based environment. In regards to the organisation of the project, the importance stems from the need to prioritise tasks and be realistic about what can be accomplished by implementing effective communication to ensure smooth delivery and deployment. By applying the lessons we learned, we will tackle future challenges by being more informed and committed to developing the best product possible. We will also be able to carry on these newfound skills in future projects.