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CS-250: Journal: Product Owner

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* **What benefits can you gain by engaging with users or stakeholders?**

**Engaging with users helps to gather insights into their needs and preferences, ensuring that the product aligns with their expectations. Stakeholder engagement aids in prioritizing features based on user value, leading to a more focused development process. Continuous interaction creates a feedback loop that allows for iterative improvements and adjustments based on real user experiences. Regular communication fosters trust and transparency between the development team and stakeholders, enhancing collaboration.**

* **Reflect on the User Stories assignment in this module. How can user stories help the Scrum Team?**

**User stories provide clear and concise descriptions of features from the user’s perspective, making it easier for the Scrum Team to understand requirements. They emphasize delivering value to the user, guiding the team to prioritize work that has the most significant impact. User stories serve as a starting point for discussions during sprint planning and backlog refinement, ensuring all team members are aligned. They often include acceptance criteria, which help the team understand when a story is complete and meets user expectations.**

* **How did the interviews/user meetings help in writing these user stories?**

**Interviews provide direct insights into user behavior, pain points, and desires, which can be translated into user stories. Meetings allow for a deeper understanding of the context in which users operate, leading to more relevant and practical user stories. User feedback during meetings can validate assumptions and help refine user stories to better meet actual needs. Engaging users in discussions fosters collaboration, allowing for co-creation of user stories that reflect real-world scenarios.**

* **What other methods for collecting feedback are needed to build the user stories?**

**Surveys and questionnaires can gather quantitative data on user preferences and satisfaction levels. Observing users as they interact with the software can reveal usability issues and areas for improvement. Analyzing user behavior through software analytics can provide insights into how features are used and where users encounter difficulties. Conducting focus groups can facilitate in-depth discussions about user experiences and expectations, leading to richer user stories.**

**References:**

Cohn, M. (2020). \*User stories applied: For agile software development\* (2nd ed.). Addison-Wesley.

Sutherland, J., & Schwaber, K. (2020). \*The Scrum Guide\*. Retrieved from https://scrumguides.org/scrum-guide.html