

## Individual Reflection — Week 8

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### What do I want to learn or understand better?

Starting this course I had never intentionally followed Agile practices or frameworks like Scrum. I had previously heard of Agile, Scrum, Kanban and I understood what a sprint was, but I cannot say I knew the specifics of how to follow them in practice or the value they bring in relation to the customer or compared to the traditional waterfall model. During this course, both through the lectures and through experience, I have gained a much better appreciation for the importance of customer value. I have also gained a much better understanding of how a team or one individual can better approach efficiently producing something that is in line with what the consumer of the product values.

Something I have found to be very important in this project, and in previous projects as well, is how important a reasonable and clear project scope and a good estimation of priorities is. I have previously had bad experiences with projects that get way too ambitious and do not focus on the right things first which results in no useful product being produced in a reasonable time. The methodologies taught and practiced in this course really highlighted more formally why these projects failed and what a better approach is. The emphasis on customer value was stuck in the back of our heads since the very first week. After initially having a wide variety of ideas, this emphasis made sure we really boiled down our thoughts into a small set of key epics ordered by importance to the customer, which guided us for the remaining weeks. Learning to break down your work into vertical slides was also very valuable and makes a lot of sense for customer value, rapid iteration and improvement.

For a future project, I will definitely keep in mind and use all the practices taught in this course. Additionally, I have learnt a lot about developing mobile applications in React Native, which was very enjoyable. I have learnt a lot about various GitHub tools like GitHub Project Boards, issues, pull requests (all used to apply Scrum in practice), GitHub Actions (CI) and more generally how to work with git in a large-ish team setting.

### How can I help someone else, or the entire team, to learn something new?

During these past eight weeks I have tried my best to help people whenever they have a problem or a question about something I believe I have an answer to or at least a guiding direction to start in. I have also tried to think more broadly about how to best help other members and how to teach the whole team organizational and technical things. More details can be seen in previous weeks' reflections.

The "Workflow Proposals" (kind of like RFCs) which I suggested in week 2 have been used a little to document things like "Definition of Done," "Using Material Design for our UI" and "VSCode extensions"

([https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/19alxdyOaQxEKxkKQu9Lk13e4-Jgu\\_0Cb](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/19alxdyOaQxEKxkKQu9Lk13e4-Jgu_0Cb)). It was interesting to think about and construct this kind of more formal way of documenting the team's workflow. However, due to lack of time on my part I was never really able to write anything concretely useful using this system, like how to approach git branching or code reviews through pull requests. I still believe the idea was good but the topics I planned to cover using them naturally worked themselves out through verbal communication instead. The system might have been more useful, or even required, in a larger team for a longer running project.

### **What is my contribution towards the team's use of Scrum?**

During the second planning week I, together with the team, setup a Scrum board using GitHub Project Boards, as detailed in week 2's reflection.

Throughout the team's five sprints I have attended all stand-up, supervision and "Friday review & planning" meetings. Together with the rest of the team at the Friday meetings, I have evaluated the team's KPIs, made sure the Scrum board is complete and kept up-to-date, reviewed and evaluated the acceptance criteria of each sprint's user stories, made sure new user stories and assignments are prioritized and set up for the next sprint, and written part of the team reflection.

### **What is my contribution towards the team's deliveries?**

The first week of planning, I do not feel I contributed much to project ideas and such. I at least tried my best to help with organizing the project by setting up Google Drive, Trello and GitHub, and providing whatever insight I had into the discussed technical decisions around mobile apps.

Additionally, during all the weeks, if no other member had already done it, I have tried to always prepare documents, and sometimes topics, for every meeting. During meetings I have made sure to take notes in our protocols, if no other member was already doing it. I have also made sure to keep our Trello (with course-related deadlines) complete and up-to-date every week. As I wrote the first week, I hope that the team has found this useful in giving an overview of what is on the agenda and has decreased confusion. During discussions, I have tried to provide useful opinions and suggestions, and listened to the opinions and suggestions of the rest of the team.

Throughout the team's five sprints I was assigned and worked on six user stories, both on my own and in collaboration with groups of two or three members. All user stories were finished successfully, although some of them needed to be continued the next sprint due to a lack of testing. More details can be seen in previous weeks' reflections. Almost every week I have spent the expected amount of hours and some weeks more.