Tutor: Jesse St Germain

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IFB299 Sprint 1 Retrospective

(Team Assessment)

Team Number:38

Team Members:

RAFIQUE MOHAMMED	N9993584
ANZAH KHAN	N9925147
RILEY HOOLAHAN	N9876219
JOEL-MICHAEL WHITE	N9955968
PANCHALEE NAVARATHNE	N10070150

Roles of Individual:

Scrum Master: Riley,

Developers: Anzah and Joel

Clients: Rafique and Panchalee

Objectives:

- To encourage your team to capture a sense of shared purpose
- To generate a sense of trust and confidence between members

Point 1: Not researching fully before starting

When starting the project, it was decided that we would be using the ASP.NET web framework where the language we would be dealing with would be C#. Unfortunately, we did not research the compatibility of MySQL's connector to Visual Studio which lead to not establishing the connection to even a local database. We also didn't research beforehand how to sync the project to the designated repository. This lead us to use the Visual Studio Team Foundation Server where it was an independent platform for that particular project. We then considered using the inbuilt SQLite database but later on we were told that it won't be acceptable. This lead us to dissolve this platform and move on to the recommended framework which is Django.

This meant we had to restart the whole project from scratch, even the front-end work as it was written in a different format to Django. There was also a learning curve for this framework as none of us were familiar with it. We had to restart the project within Django as well due to the database not syncing, which is elaborated on in Point 2. That being said, we did eventually manage to sync up the database to MySQL and were able to share the project on GitHub which made it easier to collaborate. We also managed to implement database systems (such as login/signup, booking system and instrument hire system) which was known to be the hardest part of the overall sprint but due to lack of time, we couldn't implement as per client's requirement which we hope to do in Sprint 2.

In the future, we can avoid these situation in the future by researching the sprint requirements before starting (i.e Sprint 2) and determine if the current framework is suitable or not. By doing this, we will save time as we would be able to complete the projects without any further challenges other than the continuity of the learning process of the framework. Another way to avoid this situation is to research other frameworks beforehand as well so that we have a backup option to transfer all our current work to another framework if issues occur.

Point 2: Restart due to database

The progress on the database was restarted many times, due to connection difficulties, not meeting requirements and switching programming languages. In the very early stages of the project MySQL was used to create a test database, which

would be used to connect to the ASP.NET Framework website. However various tests revealed that the connection could not be established, so a new test database was created. This was a Microsoft SQL database, which as mentioned in point 1, did not satisfy the requirements of the task. Once the website development changed languages to Python (using Django as a framework) MySQL was once again chosen to be the Database type to be used. A prototype database was created locally and the SQL script used was distributed to other members of the development team, so they could create their own local instances of the database. However it was realized that using local instances of the Database could not be used in the final product, so a web-hosted instance of the database was created (hosted on AWS). Although it could be connected to via one IP address, allowing anyone to connect to the database proved to be an issue. As such, development on the web project was stalled as the database related development in Django could not be created by all members of the group.

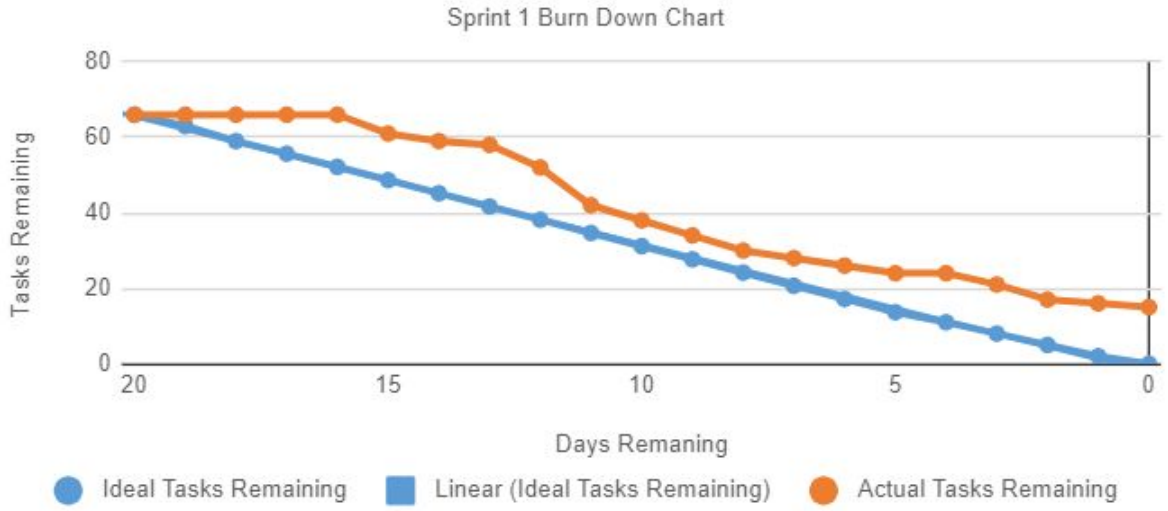
As of now most of the database work has already been accomplished, only very minor changes may be made to the database in order to improve its efficiency. That being said, the database was eventually created in full and was made publically accessible for all members of the project and eventually will be used when users access the website.

Point 3: Misjudged timings

When creating the sprints and estimating the time needed to complete tasks, we didn't take into account the aforementioned issues, or the steep learning curve that we encountered. Switching languages and frameworks chewed up a lot of our developers time, as we had to recreate the database and web pages. The development team were unfamiliar with Django, so we had to start from scratch and learn on the go. Not having a solid base of how Django worked caused us to have to try many different approaches to achieve what we thought would be a relatively easy task. An example of this was creating the login page. Django has a login template however it cannot be easily customised, so it took significantly longer to implement than what we approximated. We also didn't realise that testing would be something that would be done towards the end of the project.

Despite these issues, we have been able to find solutions to most of the issues encountered. The time issues have forced us to get better at managing time, such as if something isn't working how we expected, we either move on to something we can do and come back or find an alternative that might not be exactly what we wanted but is close enough. Some of the tasks we had planned for were already created as a part of the template we used, so we were able to spend that time working on the more complicated tasks. We were able to complete some of the

simpler tasks from Sprint 2 by doing this. As a result, our burndown chart for sprint 1 isn't too far off (See below). Going forward, we will adjust the sprint plan slightly to be more realistic about timings. We also have a better understanding of how the systems work and can better adapt to issues.



Point 4: Weekly Meetings

The weekly meetings were quite successful as everyone were consistent in the weekly meetings. The Scrum master played an important role during the weekly meetings as we were assigned tasks by the Scrum master, with input from the individuals. In other words, none of the members were forced to complete certain tasks. Additionally, before talking about the current week tasks, the previous week tasks were checked at the start of each meetings to see if it has been completed. Thereafter, the tasks of the current week was discussed and assigned. The weekly tasks were evenly distributed to all the members so no one can say it was unfair for them. Everyone attentively listened to another member's ideas and showed politeness and respect. Each member of the group were ready to support each other when required help and maintained the team spirit. Each member were able to explain their completion of assigned tasks to the Scrum master if it was unclear. If any member of the group cannot make it or would come late, they would let the others know via the group chat on fb. The weekly tasks were usually completed before the weekly tutorials.

In the future for "Sprint 2", we will keep up with what we did well as discussed above. As for what we need to improve on for the weekly meetings, we will try to implement that for "Sprint 2".

There are few improvements that we need to make in weekly meetings in the future that can be considered for "Sprint 2". Firstly, we could improve on our communication skills as at times, it happens to be very quiet and not driven

enthusiastic. We could also improve to come to the meetings on time as few times some of the group member's were late. Likewise, we can also improve on completing the assigned tasks before each week's meetings as few of the tasks were left incomplete of the last few weeks after Release and Sprint 1 submission till date. The clients could improve on looking forward to see if they can help the developers in relation to coding and database from previous experience of other subjects related to coding and database. This way, we will avoid leaving a number of tasks behind at the end of the weeks.

Point 5: Gathering issues and facts throughout the project

From the first day of the project, we were able to get feedback from the tutor as often as needed about the progress of the project. Through that we were able to gather more facts and realize the issues we are going to face throughout the project. Our scrum master played a very special role from the beginning which should be appreciated. She noted down every detail the tutor mentioned, and going through all of them point by point to make our project a success. We focused mostly on the issues which were happening during the last minutes of the process, since these are the things we remember better and the ones that still have an emotional effect in most of us.
If it's not for the scrum master it would be very hard to keep track of issues if we didn't record them when they happen, and it is even harder to analyze them if we don't have objective data. The scrum master always find ways to record important issues when they happen, and store information that will help our team to understand how and why they took place.

In the future, going forward we will continue this by deflating the reasons for the issues and gathering more facts as a team, not putting all the burden on the scrum master.