

Sprint 3 Retrospective

What went well

- Backend team - worked well with each other to change the DB schema
- Good feedback and engagement with prof/stakeholder on things that needed to be clarified
- Improved response time for PRs

What we can work on and how/why

- More communication on what everyone is specifically working on at any time so we can better track progress
- More cumulative communication between teams (frontend - backend, backend - app dev)
- Better code management practices as many backend updates had breaking changes that took a while to go back and fix on front-end & app.
- Being more active in github issues (assigning ourselves to tasks, and having discussions there)

This sprint was shortened by the extension of the previous one but nonetheless, we were able to get quite a bit of work done. On the positive end, we were able to improve many things and notice some positives:

- As the backend team was expanded this sprint to further push development, all members worked well together and kept constant communication. This led to efficient work, especially in regards to schema changes that had to be done quickly.
- We tried to up our communication with the professor who represents an important stakeholder. This helped us to plan ahead more clearly and set long term expectations regarding the future of the project.
- Last sprint, we had trouble getting pull requests approved in a timely fashion but this has been improved as planned. This helped immensely in reducing downtime.

As teams were expanded however, and development work took the front seat, we saw a few issues we will work harder to address pop up:

- We only held two meetings this sprint and communication was down due to busy schedules and personal matters. Because of this, we were not able to track individual progress as effectively, and thus were less efficient. We will work to get back on a regular meeting schedule to remedy this.

- As I said, teams expanded in scope this sprint and although inner team communication was good, inter team communication could be improved. This led to some conflicts between front and back end for example. Once again, a regular meeting schedule would help, but an additional meeting between key members in each team would help resolve this issue.
- Code management has been a sore spot for us and although we are working to catch back up, we are not quite there yet. In light of this, some important backend changes broke parts of the front-end and it took longer that it could have to resolve them. With better managed code, this could have been achieved more efficiently. Thus, the solution is to take better care in following coding conventions to make our code as understandable, retraceable and structured as possible.
- An issue we came across was that people would work on user stories and github issues without necessarily assigning themselves issues in Github. It would improve code management quality and better organize the team.
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