Sprint 1 Retrospective

Several aspects of the sprint went extremely well, as the group worked in an agile manner. The team played to each other’s strengths which created an effective system, and this contributed to the successes in the project. The collaboration between the team was excellent throughout the sprint, with the team effectively splitting up the tasks and being assigned to areas they excel in or felt more comfortable doing. We split into duos and followed pair programming techniques This led to a seamless flow of progress on a day-to-day basis, and increased motivation as the group could see work being done. Another key area of success was communication, due to the fact that the group met every day in person to work together in these pairs on tasks. Within these subgroups, everyone was aware of the job that needed to be carried out, to meet the goals of the project and bring value to the client. This was passed back to the main group, and everyone was in agreement about what had be done and what was still to be accomplished to meet the goals of the project. The splitting of the tasks was key to managing the heavy workload within the time the group had to complete the first sprint. This improved the workflow further as some members were working on the API, others on the database, and then others on the website application. After the main parts of code were implemented, the group split further into teams to add the functionality for the application. The group also spent extensive amounts of time planning the sprint, which proved to be very beneficial to the general success of the project. A high level of thought and understanding went into the planning stage, where the MoSCoW prioritisation ratings, risk and value evaluations and the T-shirt size (estimated size) of each user story proved to be insightful techniques into planning the order of the sprint and focusing on the items which provided the highest value to the client. This built a template to follow for the duration of the sprint, enhancing organisation and sticking to the goals of the sprint.

However, there were some issues and challenges that arose throughout the duration of the sprint. A noticeable issue was the fact that several points of confusion between team members was apparent as multiple members were working on the same files of code separately, making different changes to their own instance of the file. When these were pushed to the GitHub repository, conflicts between different branches appeared when trying to merge areas together which had to be reviewed extensively and then fixed, or when pulling from the GitHub, team members may have discovered unrecognizable sequences of code within the file they had worked on. This in turn created several setbacks, with time being spent on fixing these issues to get the application integrated into one environment, where this time could have been used in creating more value for the clients. Consequently, this conveyed the need to work in a more Agile manner, having people working on smaller tasks and committing them logically so the next person can use these changes and further adapt the code, and then explain to the other team members involved in that area of the project what had been done since the previous iteration.

Moving forward into the next sprint the team have identified areas which can be improved, to enhance the Agile working methodology. A focus will be placed upon creating greater value from the requirements and user stories, and presenting these to the client first so they can see the progress made throughout the sprint with items that have been completed and would be ready to be released. Aligning the tasks more closely to the clients’ requirements and prioritising items which will bring the most value to the client will sufficiently streamline the workflow of the team and increase the efficiency of the next sprint, by focusing on the main goals of the project. The team could further improve on task management by ensuring that every member makes small changes and immediately integrates them with the latest version, highlighting what they have done to the rest of the group. A commitment to sticking to a schedule will be a necessity to improve the team's performance in the next sprint, so ensuring that the scrum meetings are at the same time every day and that members don’t burn themselves out. Another improvement to be made is the optimisation of code, ensuring that it works efficiently and smartly, without the need for high levels of complexity which could result in frustration and de-motivation. Keeping it simple is the goal.

Reflecting on the sprint, there were several positives which led to the success of the first iteration of the project, such as efficient communication, collaboration and planning. However, there were some challenges faced that halted progress and interrupted the Agile ideology. The group realises areas that need to be improved upon in order to boost the efficiency of work.

In sprint 2 we aim to achieve a higher level of functionality for our website, which will bring more value to our clients, and that can be actively worked on. We aim to adjust our website to accommodate for the changes that our clients (NCR Atleos) requested. First off all, we will focus on achieving functionality for searching ATMS, using geolocation and manual search by the user. We will also make changes to the layout of the website that the clients suggested in order to make the website easier to look at and navigate. Another feature we want to add is the ability to filter our searches depending on what the user would like to look for and improve the way we display information about the selected Branch or ATM, ideally using dropdown menus and dropdown text.