**Journal: Tester**

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CS 250 – Software Development Lifecycle

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# Journal: Tester

This week, we have been asked to reflect upon our work as the Product Tester for the travel booking software and how we interpret the user stories to develop test cases. For me, when considering what elements were most helpful in developing my initial cases, I would say having the acceptance criteria is what helped me determine what would likely need to be tested for each of the user stories. The acceptance criteria listed the main attributes and functionality that would be expected to be completed each sprint, which helped me identify how the program would need to be tested. Of course, after having completed the module 4 assignment, there certainly was some critical information missing that would have helped to establish better, and perhaps even more, user stories. Doing the assignment this week made me feel as if I were missing some critical steps in the user stories that should have been addressed initially, but I can see now how this was an essential step for learning and realizing how this could potentially be a problem when first starting to develop an application. For instance, information that was missing during week three that would have been important to know beforehand is how the top five destinations should be presented. Also, information such as column headers, the order in which the destinations should be presented, whether or not they should be presented based on popularity, and even details such as graphical and descriptor layouts were missing from week three that would have made the initial planning of the user stories easier. Going forward, knowing that these basic pieces of information will be critical to any project, I would make sure to ask these types of questions as a Product Owner to the stakeholders to help ensure I fully understood the initial vision of the product. Even if I were just the Scrum Master or even just in a developer role, as soon as I noticed these types of details were missing, I would be communicating with the Scrum Master or Product Owner to initiate a conversation to determine the details that are missing and realized to be essential for product development.

The following is a sample email that I believe would effectively relate my needs and prompt for a proper response from the identified recipient, who in this case, is the Scrum Master. I believe that if I were in the development role or the tester role, the first person I would want to make contact with is the Scrum Master.

**CS 250 Tester Email**

To: Christy

Subject: User Story Clarification

Dear Christy,

After looking at the user stories that you have written, I am beginning to develop the test cases for each of the various features we will be implementing for SNHU Travel. The test cases that are being developed will be based on a pass/fail case. I have noticed that for each of the user stories, it appears there are some details that are incomplete or missing altogether. I have broken down each user story and outlined the details that I have found we need to go back to the customers/stakeholders and iron out. If you could please get back to me about how we should respond to each of these, that would be greatly appreciated.

**User Story One**

* First, it appears that there are no design specifications for the application at all. What kind of look and feel does the customer wish to have? How should the top five destinations be presented when the appropriate link is clicked to view the destinations?
* Should the destinations be presented in a slideshow format, or would they simply like to see one bog list that the user is able to scroll through?
* Is the customer concerned about having specific profiles for each user, or should the user be setting specific characteristics to a travel search each time they visit the website, never actually storing any personal information about the users?
* If we are creating profiles, exactly what type of information will be pertinent to each profile? What information do you need to know about the customers? Name, Address, Telephone... etc. Do we want to have an email address or any other type of information they think they need to know about their customers? If so, what are they?
* If saving personal information, are there statements we should make available about how we handle this type of information? Should this information be available on a separate page, perhaps an about us page?

**User Story Two**

* What specific information are we trying to capture the attention of the user with?
* Should we be showcasing these categories of information with specific column or row headings? Or should we display the content in another list view format that simply generalizes all the information for each of the top five destinations?
* If we are incorporating user profiles, how much information do we want to actually link to each user?
* When we add the feature to save destinations, are they only based on destinations the user liked, or should they also be able to add destinations they do not like and rate each destination accordingly?

**User Story Three**

* Specifically, what modes of transportation do we want users to be able to choose from?
* Does the customer want us to have a preferred mode of transportation to and from the destination as well as an option to choose what modes of transportation they would be willing or like to utilize while on a vacation?
* If both, should the results of the users’ top five destinations be reflective primarily on how to get to the destination, or should both options of transportation be equated with the same weight?

We greatly appreciate your assistance in these matters.

Thanks,

Justin Starr, Product Tester