

Sprint Retro Notes

Team: Group 3 (TUES1830-Reza)

Sprint: Sprint 3

Date: 11/10/2021

Attended:

Scrum Master: Rashed Abdin

Product Owner: David Aziz

Development team: Kowsar Rahman and Dunith Nadvi Karawita

1. Things That Went Well

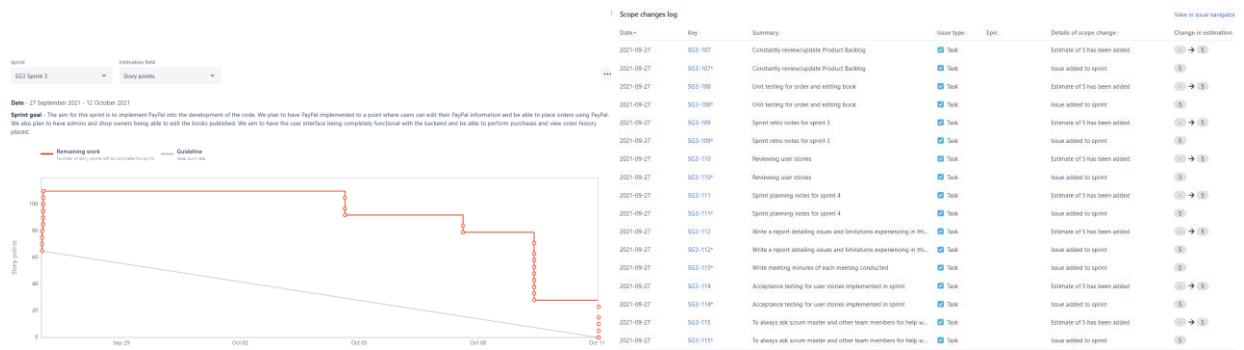
Things that went well is that we were able to implement all our user stories planned for sprint 3 which was implementing a PayPal API into our app. We then had our app perform tasks such as being able to purchase a book through PayPal and being able to cancel their order placed within 2 hours of purchase. Also, as a team we were able to communicate frequently through meetings and regular texting chat on MS Teams which made sure we all kept update and help one another when difficulties arose. On top of this, our tutor Reza guided the team very well, providing our team with proper guidance and ensuring we are meeting spec sheet guidelines and ensured we are staying on track to completing this sprint in time.

2. Things That Could Have Gone Better

Now things that could have gone better was having the ability to have all team members in the same time zone so we could meet at times that weren't so early/late for some members. This was a big obstacle to overcome throughout all the sprints so far with unfortunately one of members (Oliver) completely disappearing which made our group have to add much more workload on top of a very busy workload. That being said, we were able to adapt quickly and have all our user stories implemented for this sprint in the respective time due. This was is an ongoing issue that we as a team are facing but have no control over. Also, for the team to improve work efficiency as mentioned above, the main thing would be able to see each other face to face so we can discuss on how to implement features rather than doing it all online and on top of that every team member in a different country with a different time zone making it difficult and hard to constantly meet even though we continued doing so. If this problem of being in different countries and time zones was fixed, this would have ultimately been a big stress relief for our group.

3. Things That Surprised Us

Things that surprised us was the difficulty in some user stories to implement in the expected time as a group. For example, setting up the PayPal API in general and to be able to purchase a book for example, was a bit more challenging than we expected causing us to almost fall behind schedule. However, we met up as a group and solved that problem together in a meeting. Another problem that keeps surprising as a group is the use of Jira and how it generates the sprint burndown chart. Now we had all the user stories put into the sprint backlog as well as tasks for members to do and keep track of this sprint. For some strange reason, Jira automatically updated the tasks that have no story points to all of them having 5 story points. This caused the sprint burndown chart to increase story points as we already commenced the sprint. This is shown in sprint burndown chart below



Now we started off the sprint with all user stories needing to implement for this sprint (65 story points in total). As we added tasks for each member to do and check off throughout sprint, Jira automatically gave each task 5 story points and hence added more story points to the sprint burndown chart. We are not sure why Jira did this as we always have tasks for each sprint without story points to organise the team structure better. This ultimately affects our true sprint burndown chart results and makes it seem we don't understand the proper theory of scopes and sprints. We as a group understand that we should not be adding more story points into a sprint once it has started and this is solved by proper sprint planning but this problem unfortunately from Jira has caused our sprint burndown chart to have added story points.

4. Lessons Learned

Lessons learned was by letting Reza aware of all difficulties we went throughout this sprint to ensure all problems are solved early as possible. Letting our tutor Reza aware of all difficulties and questions needed to be answered helped our team implement all the user stories successfully for this sprint in the respective time even though we were in completely different time zones. We also learned that whenever we are stuck on a difficult part of the implementation, it helps a lot when we meet together to solve the problem rather than trying to solve everything on your own. Lastly, we decided to not add any tasks into Jira for future sprints as we don't want this problem of each task being added story points affecting our sprint burndown chart.

5. Final Thoughts

Things to keep will be our constant communication throughout this sprint which gave us the ability to be able to successfully implement every user story at such a high level and to have a positive mindset with everything despite what's been happening with these difficult times. Furthermore, letting Reza aware of all problems faced throughout this sprint to ensure all problems are resolved early.

Things to change would be if we had the opportunity would be too able to meet frequently face to face rather than doing everything online in completely different time zones. I feel like that would have made meetings much easier to schedule and given us the opportunity to be able to solve problems together in person. This unfortunately is an ongoing problem that we have little control over due to the current COVID circumstances but that being said, we are still managing and working at a very high level.