CS 250 Final Assignment

CS 250, Module 7

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June 21, 2020

Throughout this course, I moved forward with my computer science education by learning about the activities, roles, and tools needed in designing software programs. I also learned about the different types of methodology that are used during a project and I was able to see how these methodologies affect each stage of a project. Taking this class, I gained experience working with a team and I was given examples on how obstacles can occur during a project. Gaining this experience, I have moved closer in accomplishing my personal and professional goals within the computer science industry.

During this class, I was able to learn about each team role and the activities the member has to accomplish during the entire project. The following is a list of the team roles for a project: a product owner, a scrum master, a tester, and a developer. Each member is important in finishing a project for developing a software program and I was able to understand each role because I compared them to my law enforcement career. Comparing the roles, I was able to see similarities between a scrum team and my current team which helped me learn during this course.

I learned a product owner acts as a liaison between the customer and project team members. During my class, I was able to discuss with my team about my role as a product owner. I made the following statement to them on a discussion board: “As the product owner, I will do my best to conduct interviews with customers to create detailed and accurate user stories”. I was able to show my team one of my jobs as a product owner. A product owner interviews the customer and passes on accurate and detailed information known as user stories to the team members in order for the team to develop an accurate software program that will satisfy the customer’s needs. I also learned a product owner works with a scrum master to be kept up to date with the team’s daily work product.

A scrum master is a leader when it comes to daily team activities. Scrum masters are needed for handling ceremonies such as the following: daily stand-ups, sprint planning, backlog grooming, and sprint retrospective. These ceremonies are very important to the project because they give opportunities for each member to gain information and communicate with each other. As a tester, I was able to test coding that I created during this class. I was able to use eclipse to check for any errors and the results of the created coding for the Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) travel site. During one of the SNHU travel site assignments, I was able to see the results for the “Top 10 destination lists” coding and then create a java file for the project. As a developer, I created coding to develop java files for the project. As I previously stated above, I was able to use eclipse to write coding for the SNHU travel site. I wrote coding for many assignments during this class and one of these assignments allowed me to create coding to develop a “Top 5 rehabilitation destination list” java file. I learned a lot about these roles by watching videos and reading material from the class. Being able to experience these roles in class, I was able to see the steps taken in creating a project using an agile method model.

I read about the different types of method models when working on a project during my time in this course. I review method models such as the agile method and the waterfall method. These methods come with pros and cons and the roles that I previously discussed will have differences for each method. For examples, the roles can be interchangeable while using the agile method, but the roles cannot be changed using a waterfall method. Using an agile method, scrum masters can communicate with the team frequently. Using a waterfall method, only the project manager communicates and reviews weekly meetings. Another difference is the agile method is more flexible than the waterfall method when it comes to adapting the coding during a project. Agile Module is a good method to use when the customer is indecisive during interviews for the creation of user stories. Needing to change coding, a waterfall method would cause the project to move back to the design phase while an agile method would allow coding change during any phase. When it comes to deciding which methodology to use for a project, there are many factors in this decision. Factors such as the following: project size, the time limit of the project, flexibility during the project, etc. In this class, we used the agile model to create coding for a software program and the agile method was a necessity because the customer asked for changes during the project.

Participating in this course, I saw the different phases for an agile method project. I watched videos on how each member handles their work during a project. While developing the project for the SNHU travel site, I had to develop user stories, write coding, test coding, and develop ceremonies such as sprints and backlogs. Using the agile method to developing user stories, I assigned the correct priority and details to each story. The agile method helped me gain experience and keep on track in accomplishing my weekly classwork assignments because the assignments were treated like a project’s sprints. Gaining experience from my classroom assignments, I was able to adapt my coding because an unexpected obstacle had risen during the project. The obstacle was the customer requested the SNHU travel “Top 5 destination sites” program needed to be changed to a “Top 5 rehabilitation destination sites” program. Since the team was using the agile method, we were able to change the coding to fulfill the customer’s request regardless of our stage in the project. I was able to use programs such as eclipse to make these changes and these programs gave me new knowledge for my computer science career.

Before taking this course, my professional goal was to work at my department’s high-tech division as a Deputy Sheriff. I was nervous about moving to the computer science work field, but this course made me more confident because I was able to see the similarities of my job in this course and I was able to see coding from the project come to life. Seeing the results of the SNHU travel project coding, I was inspired to keep learning and practicing my coding with programs such as Eclipse to develop the necessary skills for software designs. I also saw the benefits of using management organizational tools such as Jira software because it the team members to be organized, communicate, and stay up to date during the project; I believe I must continue gaining experience with these tools to give myself the best opportunity to have a successful education and career. The Jira software allowed me to see how agile tools would help with a team’s communication factor during a project.

During this course, I did not use the Jira software, but I was able to use the discussion board to communicate with my team. In the discussion, I chose the product owner role of the project and I was able to notify my team about my desire to keep them up to date with any changes by making the following statement: “I will work with the team and the customers by being a liaison between them in order to make sure everyone is kept up to date with any changes requested by the customer and/or concerns from the team”. Using this statement, I wanted to show my team I would do my very best to protect them from any late changes to the project by the customer. Having these discussions with my team, I was able to use this class to better myself in accomplishing my goals in computer science.

The Computer Science industry captured my interest and it allowed me to develop goals for my future. The personal goals I would like to accomplish are to receive a bachelor’s degree in computer science with a concentration in software engineering, a master’s degree in cybersecurity, and Doctor of Philosophy (PHD) in bioinformatics. Obtaining these knowledges, I will be able to accomplish my professional goals. When it comes to my professional goals, I have choice to take either of these two directions; I would either stay in law enforcement or move away from law enforcement entirely. If I stay in law enforcement, my professional goals would like to be transferred to my department’s high-tech division and promote within this division. If I move away from law enforcement, my professional goals would be the following: be a cybersecurity engineer, become a chief information security officer (CISO), and then create software programs with bioinformatics in order to collect biological data to develop cures for many fatal diseases.