As the SNHU Travel booking software product tester, I used user stories as the framework for writing the test cases. The “As a [role], I want [feature], so that [benefit]” template was handy. They clearly defined the goal of the user, the feature they wished to achieve, and the benefit they were expecting. In addition, the acceptance criteria appended to each user story provided measurable requirements, which specified when one can say that a story is complete. These criteria helped me to clearly articulate the specific steps to be taken by my first test cases so that each test supported the expected functionality (Crispin & Gregory, 2019).

Communication is key to the Tester and the Product Owner (PO) throughout test case creation. The PO can confirm ambiguities in the user stories, validate assumptions, and help add more context in the form of design mockups or business rules. Effective collaboration prevents errors and minimizes rework when test cases are run (Atlassian, 2021).

Even though the user story template was clear, there were missing details. For example, it was not specified whether the Top 10 trips were to be shown on one page or in a slideshow form—as confirmed by the SampleSlideShow wireframe. There was no initial specification regarding user ratings, price ranges, and the form that trip descriptions were to take. Moreover, the mobile app store was not specific, without specification as to which features would be part of the first release compared to subsequent versions.

I would arrange follow-up meetings or targeted emails to the PO, requesting specific information through specific questions. This is based on agile practices for continuous refinement of the requirements, which allow both the test team and the development team to have a mutual understanding of the functionality (Agile Alliance, 2022). Rapid feedback loops and initial demonstrations about the wireframe can continue to confirm assumptions prior to the start of test execution.

**Sample Email to Product Owner**

To: Christy Johnson, Product Owner

Subject: Clarification Needed for Test Case Development – SNHU Travel Application

Hello Christy,

I hope you are doing well. I am in the process of developing detailed test cases for the three user stories we defined in Module Three. To ensure the tests accurately reflect the intended functionality, I need some clarifications:

1. Top 10 Trips Story:

   • Should the Top 10 trips be displayed on a single page or implemented as a slideshow?

   • Should the list count down from 10 to 1 or start at 1 and increase?

   • Is this list filtered by vacation type or by overall popularity?

2. Trip Listings/Filter Story:

   • Which specific columns should appear in the trip listing (e.g., Name, Location, Price, Description)?

   • Do we need to sort by user ratings, and will a price range filter be available?

   • What length should the trip description be—one line or a multi-line overview?

3. Mobile App Story:

   • Can you provide a wireframe or list of features for the initial mobile app release?

   • Are any desktop features excluded from the mobile version in this iteration?

Your input will help me create precise test steps and clear pass/fail criteria. Please let me know if we can schedule a short meeting to review these points, or feel free to reply directly with the details.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Best regards,

Hunter Goodwin

Product Tester, SNHU Travel Project

**References**

Agile Alliance. (2022). User Stories – Agile Alliance. Retrieved from https://www.agilealliance.org/resources/guide/user-stories/

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Crispin, L., & Gregory, J. (2019). *Agile Testing: A Practical Guide for Testers and Agile Teams* (2nd ed.). Addison-Wesley Professional.