Info 3333 Group Project Individual Reflection

Shuwei Zhang

Introduction

Every successful project needs to have a precise scope, which determines which work needs to be done in the project, and which one is not. . As such, this reflection will focus on the project scope explicitly, as a main aspect of project management in the ColesWorth project.

In IT project development practices, the selection of a good project management approach is extremely important, as it can effectively increase the workers’ efficiency. Thus, the group has chosen XP as our project management approach for its benefits.

Description of work produced / implementation

The project scope is the backbone of a project, as it defines what should be done and what shouldn’t in the whole project. We firstly created a frame for our project scope, then adjusted it based on further customer requirement. As we chose the XP approach, we selected the agile way to define a project scope, which includes gathering user stories by communicating with clients, producing requirements, and putting them into our scope. An outstanding benefit by using XP is, since XP is an agile method, that turned the scope into a flexible constraint, which neglects most negatives from scope creeping if a non-agile methodology is chosen.

When a client gives his requirement, we convert it into a user story, for better analyzing, then we turn the requirement into our requirement list, and finally integrates it into our project scope. The Out-of-scope tags are defined after consultant with customers.

The final deliverables are decided, after careful analysis and extensive communication with the client.

Comparison to different project management approach

In our practice, we selected XP as our development methodology, for its more agile development style. XP is a project management approach that is based on frequent iteration and extensive customer involvement. XP is built on an agile framework, and thus better suits for current IT projects, as most IT projects are prone to the risk of higher failure rate, due to lack of communication and understanding between developers and stakeholders(Fekete, A., & Hasan, R.).

In a traditional waterfall workflow, the project will be developed in a sequential process, and project scope will be one of the ‘stages’ in the whole development cycle. The customer negotiation will be finished thoroughly before the project starts, and documents will be produced to help produce a project scope. Once a project scope has been created, the development shall progress to the next stage, and the scope should not be further changed, to avoid scope creep.

XP has some unique benefits over the waterfall model. First, customers has better involvement into the project, thus, customers will have frequent opportunities to check the work ongoing, and make decisions throughout the project (Mary Lotz, 2018). That will allow customers to supervise the project along with development and help augmenting the scope. Second, because there is extensive communication with the development process, the requirements can be better understanded by the developers, and the scopes will be created more accurately. Third, changes will be easier to adapt, if the customer has a different requirement.

However, traditional waterfall model still has some distinct advantages. First, the development progress will be easier to measure, since the scope is fixed and known in advance (Mary Lotz, 2018). Second, since waterfall is a traditional model, developers may be more used to this, instead of the agile development. Third, waterfall has more detailed documentation, that will help the information to be passed between different development stages.

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Reflection

In our development with XP approach, we communicated with customers constantly and regularly, while adjusting our scope based on the customer reflection. The main strength of our implementation is, we were able to stick closely to the customer requirements. Each time we gathered new information from the customer, we will quickly produce the user stories based on the requirements, and arrange them into the project scope. That gives us an edge of being able to stick close to the need of stakeholders, and achieve a high involvement of the customers into our project, while the produced project scope is both tidy and critical to the development. However, one of the main disadvantage I found within the development is, since the project scope was treated as an assignment stage, We were not able to further adjust our scope based on later communication with customers, that hindered us to utilize the distinct advantage of XP. Furthermore, I personally finds myself along with my team being not used to this style of development, and in some stages of the development cycle, we failed to achieve utilizing the agile development and forced to switch back to waterfall at some particular points.

Conclusion

In an IT project, the correct definition of scope and a proper project management approach can be critical to its success. Thus, In our group project, the group chose XP as management approach for its agile framework, and carefully refined the project scope based on communication to deliver the plan which best suits customer’s need.

references

* Fekete, A., & Hasan, R. (n.d.). INFO3333 Semester 1, 2019 Module 3 Lecture: Scope Management [PDF]. The University of Sydney School of IT. The University of Sydney Info 3333 slides
* Mary Lotz on July 5, 2018, Waterfall vs. Agile: Which is the Right Development Methodology for Your Project?, <https://www.seguetech.com/waterfall-vs-agile-methodology/>