Team 7 – Sprint 1 Retrospective

Ashvin Lohiya, Akshat Goyal, Shubhang Kulkarni, Palina Rawat, Aakash Keswani, Sidhant Chadda

What went well

1. ## Learned required technologies

   Learning the technologies required for our project was a big part of the first sprint. A large majority of the team had little or no experience with most of the technologies required, hence we decided to spend some time getting familiar with Python, Node, React, MongoDB, etc. The team spent a considerable amount of time researching into these technologies and coming up with ways for binding our whole system together. By the end of the sprint the team had a good idea of the technologies being used and the interaction between them. It's a good start in the sense that now the team will be able to dive in to work directly in sprint 2 and learn new things as they come up.

2. ## Database Setup

   After much discussion about whether to use a SQL or a No-SQL database, and further discussions on schemas, the team decided to go with No-SQL because we would be querying the database using only email addresses (Primary key), and we didn't need the robustness offered by SQL databases. We then spent some time learning how to use and integrate MongoDB using Mongoose into our Project. We were having a few problems initially maintaining the integrity of our data, but we smoothed out these issues fairly quickly.

3. ## Getting used to agile

   We were able to stick to sprint one planning document and were able to complete most of the user stories. As this was everyone's first experience with the agile methodology, it's a good start. We have all learnt quite a lot about documentation and the need to document things as we move forward.

What went poorly

1. Communication and management

    One of the bigger problems during this sprint was communication and arranging team meetings among team members. All members had classes and exams and were finding it hard to arrange time together as a group. Due to poor communication, the team wasn't as productive as it could have been during the meetings and it was hard to get input from everybody at the same times. Also, the team members live far away from each other so deciding on meeting locations was also very difficult.

2. Documentation

    An issue we face while integrating the front end with the backend and database was that the front end wasn't displaying an attribute. We narrowed the issue down to the attribute not being documented properly, and thus the front end team had overlooked its display.

3. Work Division

    Dividing work in a group of 6 people becomes extremely difficult at times. As everyone is good at different things and has different interests, it get's difficult to do so. Also, some members did not have any prior experience with the technologies being used, they had to spend most of the time learning them while others had to chip in extra to make up for that learning process.

How should we improve

1. Communication and management

    As described earlier, communication and team management was a big problem during the last sprint. However, we have now decided upon certain times and locations we will be meeting on that works best for everybody. Also, we have decided to put all meeting content online so members missing the meeting can read and present their inputs.

2. Documentation

    Hold regular discussions with all the sub-teams during team meetings, as regards to the changes they are making and attributes they are using, so that missing documentation can be catched early on. Also This will ensure that all the team members are on the same page about the development phase of the project.

3. Work Division

    In sprint 2 we plan to divide work more efficiently so that things take as least time as possible. Now we also know which area each member's expertise lie in, so it'll be easier to divide the work amongst us. Also, as now a large part of the learning new technologies is done, we can spend more time working on the actual product.