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Condospective

Introduction

Firstly, coming into this sprint, our team's focus was to implement all features to have a lighter succeeding and final sprint as it coincides with finals. To do so, we collectively agreed to spend less time on testing and dedicate more time and effort on back-end and front-end implementation. Furthermore, based on the sprint #3 feedback, the missing scenarios in the Use-Case diagram and Activity diagram were added, additional acceptance tests were provided, and the overall content of the code management document was improved.

What went wrong

1- Pressing deadline

An aspect that our team struggled with during this fourth sprint was completing the requirements for this sprint before the imposed deadline (before and after the extension was given). This was caused by the high pressure of trying to finish everything on time while dealing with final exams season.

Team members felt compelled to rush certain tasks to meet deadlines or leave things to the last-minute due to other more urgent coursework. To address this issue, the team prioritized tasks based on criticality and potential impact.

Setting realistic and achievable deadlines based on thorough project planning and estimation could have prevented excessive pressure on team members and allowed for a more balanced allocation of resources and efforts.

2-React

An aspect that continued to be challenging for some, but not all, team members, was the utilisation of React for our front-end. Since React introduces new concepts such as JSX syntax, virtual DOM, and component-based architecture, it was challenging for some team members who haven't had hands-on experience with it.

The complexity of React concepts led to confusion, frustration, and slower adoption among team members, affecting productivity and overall motivation. To address the issue, the team provided comprehensive documentation and tutorials to familiarize team members with React concepts gradually.

Implementing structured pair programming where experienced React team members are paired with those new to React could have facilitated this issue for the whole team.

3- C# experience

A challenge that the team continued to deal with during this sprint was the lack of experience of some team members with C#, used for this project. This occurred due to factors such as the limited exposure to C# in previous projects and the limited time assigned to achieving the deliverables.

This aspect has led to slower adoption and learning curves throughout sprint #3, especially with the addition of test cases. To fix this issue, the team continues to leverage online resources and documentation to provide additional support. Furthermore, the team has assigned tasks based on team members' strengths and areas for growth, allowing for a gradual hands-on experience.

Improvements could have been made by conducting a skills assessment at the outset of the project to identify the gaps within the team. Based on that assessment, the choice of language used for this project could have differed.

4- Documentation

An aspect that our team struggled with during this sprint was not completing the documentation at the last minute and before the imposed deadline. This was caused by the high-pressure and extreme focus of successfully implementing all features, so that our final sprint can only be dedicated to polishing and fixing existing elements. By focusing on the completion of our features, the team neglected the importance of the documentation aspect of our sprint and felt compelled to leave it to the last day.

To address this issue, the team agreed to find a balance between achieving the implementation of new features and the writing of documents. To do so, we've decided to include specific days where every member of the team would work on the documentation rather than implementation.

Finally, setting realistic and achievable deadlines based on thorough project planning and estimation could have prevented excessive pressure on team members and allowed for a balance between implementation and completion of documentation.

5- Jira

The use of the Jira Platform was not as efficient during this sprint as it was during our two first sprints. Despite its capabilities, we fell short in maximizing its benefits for organizing tasks, assigning responsibilities, and monitoring progress effectively throughout the development cycle.

Acknowledging Jira's value to our team, we understand that our usage during this sprint didn't reflect its full potential. To address this issue, we've agreed to provide more detailed task descriptions and acceptance criteria in future sprints to improve clarity and streamline our processes effectively.

This issue could have been avoided by setting frequent reminders for every member of the team to participate in Jira and holding them accountable if they haven't shown consistent participation.

What went right

1- Deployment

In this new sprint, our team successfully achieved the deployment of our website, marking a significant milestone for our team. Our streamlined deployment process ensured that all necessary updates and features were seamlessly integrated into the live site.

By doing so, it minimized downtime and disruptions for our users, enhancing their overall experience. To address potential issues, we conducted thorough testing across various environments, allowing us to identify and resolve any issues prior to deployment. Also,

clear communication channels were established to promptly address any unforeseen challenges that arose during the process.

While the deployment was executed smoothly, there is always room for improvement. Enhancing automation tools and further refining our testing protocols could expedite future deployments and enhance overall efficiency.

2- Continuous Monitoring

An aspect that continued to work well during the development was the continuous monitoring and adjustment. Regular meetings and updates on task progress helped keep everyone aligned and focused on their respective responsibilities once again. This included reallocating resources, re-prioritizing tasks, or providing additional support to team members as needed.

By doing so, our team was able to adapt quickly to evolving requirements, priorities, and challenges. It enhanced our ability to stay aligned with project goals and respond to the bigger changes that were made in the project environment. To address this aspect, daily stand-up meetings were conducted. These meetings have provided an opportunity for team members to share updates, discuss progress, and raise any issues or concerns.

However, the integration of monitoring tools with automated incident response systems could have helped us more. By automating the response to common alerts and predefined scenarios, our team could have reduced manual intervention, minimized downtime, and improved overall system reliability.

3- Agile Methodology Implementation

The implementation of Agile methodologies remained something that worked well during the development. This aspect occurred due to clear understanding and commitment from the team. Agile principles such as iterative development, frequent feedback, and adaptive planning were embraced and integrated into the team's workflow.

The impact of effective Agile methodology implementation included increased productivity within the team, as well as improved collaboration among all team members. To ensure this implementation, the team established daily stand-ups and sprint planning meetings. Furthermore, regular retrospectives were held to keep up with the team's processes and identify areas that needed more work.

However, this implementation could have been better by putting more effort into strengthening communication channels between the different parts of the sprints. For

example, if some members finished earlier than anticipated, and other members needed help with their parts, teammates should be able to move from part to part to help each other. This aspect is something our team still needs to work on.

4- Camaraderie

One aspect that was highlighted throughout this sprint was the remarkable teamwork and support within our team when faced with challenges. This camaraderie stemmed from a shared understanding that our collective success depended on each member's contributions. If one team member encountered difficulties with their tasks or features, others readily stepped in to help and ensure progress was not impeded. This proactive approach ensured that no individual was left struggling alone and that critical project milestones were consistently met.

To address potential bottlenecks, regular check-ins were made by the team leader and status updates were conducted, allowing us to redistribute workload as needed and provide additional support where necessary.

However, while our team's willingness to assist each other was commendable, there's always room for improvement. Establishing clearer escalation procedures and refining task prioritization methods could further enhance our ability to respond swiftly to challenges and optimize project efficiency.

5- Collaborative Problem Solving

An aspect that did work well and was maintained during the development of sprint #2 is our team's collaborative problem solving. This was reached, because each member of the team brought unique perspectives and problem-solving approaches to the table.

This aspect increased creativity, faster problem resolution, and a stronger sense of ownership and accountability among team members. To address collaborative problem solving, the team organized brainstorming sessions and workshops to generate ideas collaboratively.

However, for future sprints, our team could organize more opportunities to share knowledge and expertise such as in-person meetings to further enhance this aspect.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the team has encountered both achievements and challenges in equal measure during this fourth sprint. Despite facing obstacles such as learning curves for front-end and back-end tools and a lack of use of the Jira platform, the team's ability to work together, share knowledge, and support one another has been instrumental in overcoming obstacles. Additionally, the team has continued to gain a deeper understanding of the technologies that were retained from sprint #1. However, when it comes to the new technologies that were installed in sprint #2, there is always room for improvement and growth for some team members as this project continues. One of the main takeaways taken from this sprint is the importance of teamwork and communication when implementing new complex features. Finally, as the team navigated through the unfamiliar territories implemented in this sprint, all team members demonstrated their ability to adapt quickly and remain focused on the project's requirements and deadlines.