

Individual Reflection

Omar Younes

Sprint 1

At the start of the course, I set a goal of becoming a more active team member in the discussion since I am usually more laid back. In order to do that, I am going through methods of working agile. This includes incrementing the code bit by bit, as well as actually utilizing the sprint planning time as a way to understand other's views on the same idea fully but also as an opportunity for me personally to reflect on how I act in a larger team than I am used to. I tried as well to listen to but also discuss ideas with the scrum master as a way for me to be comfortable with roles established by the team.

During this sprint, I worked closely with one other member of the group and we utilized pair-programming as a way for us to kick things off. This felt like the best way to start things off since it's difficult to separate tasks so clearly at the moment. We were discussing different solutions and implementing that was concluded to best fit our idea of the program. This method worked very well for our situation during this sprint but other methods may better fit during the next.

When starting the next sprint, I have a small goal of working in specific times, and not rushing things, if possible. This allows me to be in a more prepared headspace if I was aware of when I would be working next beforehand. When it comes to the team, I would like to help a little more but that depends on the task that I will be assigned, which are, in turn, hopefully somewhat challenging so that I can learn something new from the course apart from the agile working process.

Sprint 2

I want to learn more about agile processes and how they can improve our team's productivity and efficiency. We were able to implement that better during this sprint and hopefully even better during the next. I want to learn what others have been working on as well. That is to use this course as an opportunity to grow in coding as well as agile working processes.

I have worked closely with one other member of the team, utilizing pair-programming to complete the tasks that were assigned to us during the sprint planning. I have been helping to identify and resolve any code-blocks that my teammate has which have helped us achieve our goals.

During upcoming weeks, I can definitely provide more constructive feedback during our sprint retrospectives and help identify areas for improvement. I can help in building the team so that everyone feels like we are working towards the same goal, rather than individual goals or grades.

Last week, I identified the need for more clearly defined roles and responsibilities within the team. This week, I have been working closer with my designated team. I mentioned that I wanted to be more vocal within the team and that has been working since I took some small steps in order to make that happen through expressing a way that I see a certain thing fit better and so on.

Sprint 3

This sprint taught me a lot about agile processes and how they can enhance teamwork. I've been putting what I've learnt into practice and have observed how it can affect our productivity, positively. Since the last sprint, I've been closely collaborating with my pair-programming partner and offering assistance when needed. I'm happy that we can operate well and accomplish our objectives. That however, shouldn't take away from the group meeting and how we used them to coordinate everything that is being done.

I intend to provide more input throughout our meetings to help our team in performing better during the upcoming sprint. I want to offer my opinions and recommendations so that we can get better. Additionally, I want to make sure that everyone is working toward the same objective and that our roles and responsibilities are all clearly defined. That is a positive trend that I would like to carry over from sprint 2.

I started speaking up more in the team last week, and things have been going well since. Additionally, I've been working to ensure that everyone is aware of their responsibilities, not by telling them to do anything, but rather asking how things are going and how it aligns with our set timeline. I believe it is having an impact. Overall, I look forward to continuing to grow and learn alongside my colleagues.

Sprint 4

This sprint has been more calm, less to do and more to think about when it comes to my work. I had to dial back my contribution since the work was more individual. We still had daily communication but not much to help with. With that being said, and with me being happy with my team communication from the past sprint, I had to also learn when to be silent. This is an area that I feel like my team colleagues have helped me develop in; the ability to listen and understand and then give my thoughts prefaced by the remark of them being suggestions and not corrections (if not something needs, in fact, correction). I have also felt the role of the scrum master a bit more during this sprint since we had to discuss some decisions regarding the design of the program plus the behavior of some buttons/functionalities.

I have helped with rewriting tests and Javadoc documentation during this sprint. It wasn't a difficult task per se, but a rather tedious one because of the unexciting repetition element. I tried to help others when we had a physical meeting since my tasks, as mentioned, weren't the hardest or the most time-consuming. During the next sprint, I will probably go back to pair-programming which is something that I learned to do pretty well during this course.

Compared to the previous sprint, I think I was also more aware of what others were doing. That could be a symptom of the short sprint we had, but I believe that means that we as a team are also getting better at communicating what we're doing in a comprehensive way plus our daily short updating messages that helped me and I hope everyone to be more mindful of the changes in the application.