Project Sprint Retro Notes

Team: 4

Sprint: Sprint number 3

Date: 03/10/2021

Attended: Jacob McEwan, Jack Hollis-London, Moritz Hauptmann, Minggang Dong

Scrum Master: Jack Hollis-London

Product Owner: Mohmmad Ali

Development team: Jacob McEwan, Jack Hollis-London, Moritz Hauptmann, Minggang Dong

## 1. Things That Went Well

*What went well? What is the team happy about?*

Jacob McEwan: “Creating the views and handling state was made a lot simpler by Recoil.”

Moritz Hauptmann: “The support from group member to group member was good and helpful for the project to proceed quicker.”

Minggang Dong: “Managed to complete the user story for business user registration and started designing the solution for show books by categories story.“

Jack: “Successfully automated deployment of microservices and frontend web app to AWS using CI/CD pipelines. CI/CD is implemented using CircleCI with GitHub hooks and AWS technologies including AWS S3 Storage, Elastic Container Registry, Elastic Container Service, ECS Fargate, EC2 Load balancers, EC2 target groups, AWS Relational Database Service, and the AWS CLI.”

## 2. Things That Could Have Gone Better

*What could have gone better? What could the team improve?*

Jacob McEwan: “Working around Spring Data REST is becoming a slowdown point. Most of the time spent on development is finding out how to make it work with Spring Data REST, when the solution should be simple.”

Jack: “Clarity on deploying to AWS, there was specifications for deploying to AWS, in the tutorials we were shown brief views of Microsoft Azure, which did not help with implementing CI/CD with CircleCI and AWS. - Better familiarity with the Spring-framework’s JPA would have speed things up.”

Minggang : “I should have learned Mockito library for back-end testing for this story.”

Moritz: “User story 17 is missing some of the frontend implementation, due complexity and blockers”

## 3. Things That Surprised Us

*What was not expected?*

Jacob McEwan: “Handling state and async / API backends is a lot simpler than it seemed. Recoil has made handling that a lot easier.”

Jack: “AWS Educate does not support permissions required to do CI/CD, making a new account was required. AWS free tier is also not enough to support the entire product so I am paying the bill. Is this really necessary?”

Minggang: “validation and unit tests are quite different for the public and business user, spent some time to get it working.”

Moritz: “The admin functionality for PBI 17 was more complex to implement than first thought and required a full understanding of a few spring security classes, that are in the source code and loaded in the background”.

## 4. Lessons Learned

*What have you learned from the above points?*

Working with external libraries / frameworks can lead to complexity that slows basic tasks down, while providing ease in other areas. Knowing which libraries / frameworks to use is important as it can lead to unneeded complexity. Additionally, publishing and configuring deployments is a massive job and fitting it in as a separate task was the right way to go.

## 5. Final Thoughts

*Things to Keep*

Keeping task load to a minimum from the beginning allows us to focus on the tasks that are needed.

*Things to Change*

Do not jump on a framework / library just because it makes an immediate problem easier. It may well add complexity that slows down later stages. We should be more careful about what libraries / frameworks we use in the future.