Adam Sissoko

September 25, 2021

Journal - Developer

As a developer on an Agile team, my ability to communicate is vital to the completion of the product on time. The Scrum Guide does not restrict this communication, and the development team is allowed (and encouraged) to speak with the product stakeholders and the product owner when necessary. Additionally, open communication between the developers and the testers helps both teams develop an effective product.

Given the current scenario regarding the change in direction of the current project, the development team may want to speak with the product owner regarding the specific properties that make a vacation a “wellness/detox” vacation so that the product’s search algorithm can be adjusted accordingly. Testers usually use specialized software and program methods that allow them to test all potential impediments and issues, so the developers would want to speak with them regarding what type of coding structure they can implement to make testing smoother.

Communication between the different parties can be done in various mediums, but the most effective is to meet face to face throughout the sprint. Maintaining open, regular communication will help to ensure that no request is sidelined or overlooked due to initial lack of communication. Small teams and co-locations help to facilitate this.

Since Agile requires developers be self-organized, they can take it upon themselves to communicate openly with other team members, stakeholders, and customers (with the product owner present). The product owner has the final decision on what gets implemented in the final product, but communicating directly with them and presenting problems with solutions can help to influence their decision. The development team is also able to determine when they communicate with stakeholders, but must also respect the product owner's final decision regarding the product backlog. In this way, the developers never work on something that ultimately isn’t an important part of the final product.

Example Email Conversation

Email

To: Christy

Subject: Detox and Wellness Vacations

Dear Christy,

Hi! Some of us in the team were hoping you could clarify some information regarding the new direction of the project (SNHU Travel Website). We understand that the new focus will be on providing customers with top destinations that are centered around wellness and detox. Will this be the only type of vacation that we push to the customers, or will they also be able to access traditional vacations? Will the customer be able to change a setting to not see detox/wellness centered vacations at all? If a customer doesn’t specify which type of vacation they want to search for, will the different types of vacations be listed together in the results in any particular order? Finally, in order to calibrate the search algorithm, what specific features of a wellness/detox vacation should we focus on including? Thanks!

Lawrence

Email

To: Lawrence

Subject: Re: Detox and Wellness Vacations

Dear Lawrence,

Hello again, and thank you for the questions! While we are focusing on the detox/wellness travel sector, we will still offer other types of vacations to our users. However, the detox/wellness vacations should be top priority in the “top trips” list that users are presented with when they click on the link. Regarding the user setting to turn this off, I should ask how difficult will this be to implement within the current sprint? If this is a small story then I can add it to our current backlog, but anything larger than that I will have to push to our next spring backlog. Search results will focus on wellness/detox vacations, and therefore those should be the main focus of any results from a vacation search. To help your team determine what the search needs to know in order to present the user with appropriate destinations, I’ve attached a PDF file that lists the properties of the type of detox/wellness vacation we’d like to focus on. Hope this helps!

Christy

Attachments: [Wellness\_and\_detox\_vacations.pdf](https://www.traveltowellness.com/what-is-wellness-travel/)