Day-to-Day Progress

17th June 2015

The senior leaders at IMC discussed the new 18F project and conducted a meeting to identify resources and activities needed

18th June 2015

Atul Mathur, Matthew Killmeyer, Tom Curran, Chris Hall, Tom Green, Mike Reep, Morgan Kreutz, Rylie Chase, Alan Tarica, Sachin Patel, Parul Patel, Shreyas Patil, Ellen Campbell and Amrita Nayak got together to discuss the idea further and created labor categories based on the document provided by 18F, assigned resources to these categories and distributed activities amongst these resources. They also made teams and set milestones.

Labor category assignments were as follows:

Category 1 - Product Manager -

Category 2 - Technical Architect - Atul Mathur

Category 3 - Interaction Designer / User Researcher / Usability Tester- Parul Patel

Category 4 - Writer / Content Designer / Content Strategist – Amrita Nayak

Category 5 - Visual Designer – Morgan Kreutz

Category 6 - Frontend Web Developer

Category 7 - Backend Web Developer

Category 8 - DevOps Engineer – Shreyas Patil, Alan Tarica

Category 9 - Security Engineer

Category 10 - Delivery Manager

Category 11 - Agile Coach – Matthew Killmeyer

Category 12 - Business Analyst – Sachin Patil

Category 13 - Digital Performance Analyst

Milestones were set as follows:

* One and a half days to finalize the design of the product
* Two days to develop the product
* Two days to test the product
* Half a day to promote the product.

Some of the other highlights of the meeting were:

* The team decided to work on enhancing the ‘adverse effects’ section of the open.fda.gov website as IMC already had expertise in that field.
* The maximum number of pages that the development team would create was fixed to 3
* The time and place for daily standup meetings were set.
* JIRA accounts were created for all the team members to log their daily work
* Types of servers that could be used were discussed. Nginx servers were mentioned.
* Continuous Integration and ways to implement it were discussed.
* Design perspectives were finalized. The team decided to consider the following 3 categories of users

1. General consumers (Example: Patients)
2. Researchers (Example: Pharmaceutical scientists)
3. Physicians and medical professionals (Example: Doctors)

The following use cases were considered for the 3 category of users:

* General consumers would want to be able to select the drug names and then drill down based on reaction, ranked by the seriousness and likelihood of occurrence (how common it is)
* Researchers would like to have a look up box and group drug names based on indications. For example asthma, cardiovascular etc. This data could be further drilled down based on the reactions and its severity. This group of end users also includes lawyers.
* Physicians would like to have the data drilled down by drug name, indication and seriousness. This would enable them to quickly look up some drug and its reactions before prescribing it to their patients.

The team also decided to color code the reactions to indicate severity. For example if a certain drug caused death, it would be color coded red to indicate high severity.

19th June, 2015

The team met for a daily standup meeting and the meeting began with an introduction to agile and scrum methodologies. The members then gave their progress status after which the tasks to be accomplished by the end of that day were fixed. Each member also mentioned the impediments they had/have.

The highlights of the standup meeting were:

* Several alternatives were evaluated for the product URL and product name. The team finally decided on ‘RX Effects’
* GIT repository and file structures were also discussed. The team planned on using a sandbox to test commits.
* Based on scrum framework, the project was set to be released in 4 sprints of 1 week each. Each sprint would last from Monday to Friday. At the end of each sprint we would have a newer and better version of the product ready for use.
* Based on the sprint framework, the team would use that day (Friday) to create a large backlog and consider that day to be sprint 0.
* The development team set up GIT
* The development team made connections to Amazon Web Service Server Instance
* They compared Nginx with Apache Tomcat and decided to use Apache Tomcat Servers instead of Nginx as the Apache Tomcat supports Java applications better.

The daily stand-up meeting was followed by 2 other meetings involving the design team.

The meeting highlights were:

* The home page for the product created by the visual designer was discussed. Certain elements were added and certain changes were made to the layout of the page.
* Ideas for the logo were discussed. The team decided to mirror the open.fda.gov website as much as possible.
* User perceptive was analyzed. What information the user would like to see and how the user would like to view that information were discussed.
* Levels of drill down, filtering, classification were analyzed.
* The team decided on using the name of the drug as the first filter. This would be an auto complete text box. This would return the top 5% prevalent adverse effects of that drug. The visual would be displayed in the form of a bar graph
* The next filter would be seriousness and outcome. This would add value to what is currently available on the open.fda.org website.
* User stories were refined and classified into 3 separate stories:

1. User Story1: View top 5% events
2. User Story2: view top 5% events as a bar chart
3. User Story3: View top 5% events with filters for seriousness and outcome

* The Scrum Master was informed about the updates from the design meeting so that he could give the team his feedback.
* A technical hurdle (extracting results from the data) was identified and plan B (getting the data local and manipulating it) was also proposed

22nd June, 2015

* After the daily stand-up meeting the team decided to discuss and finalize the folder structure and the nomenclature by the end of business that day
* The development team got JQuery up and running
* They created a theme on Bootstrap and got it up and running
* They used wireframe to create the structure of the website.
* They looked into the data and the type that will be used in the website
* They made sample Ajax calls to api.fda.gov to get data in json format.
* The stand up meeting was followed by a design meeting during which different forms of graphs were discussed. The team decided to use a horizontal bar graph as they felt it is the industry best practice.
* The ‘top 5% prevalent events’ was changed to ‘5 most frequent events’. The user stories too were updated so that it could be uploaded to JIRA by the end of business that day.
* The page layout was refined further, button and graph placements were discussed.

23rd June, 2015

* The daily standup meeting was conducted.
* The development team looked into the types of visualization tools that could be used.
* They rendered the chosen graph on demo data
* They looked deeper into the data to understand the structure in api.fda.gov
* Suggestions were made to create a government account and give them restricted access to 18F project on JIRA.
* Recommendation was made to mention the URL in the readme file.
* Recommendation was made to include screenshots in the word document.

24th June, 2015

* The daily stand up meeting was conducted
* The development team developed a program that could generate a bar for each outcome for the specified drug but it failed data validation. So they changed the graph to show just single bars for each outcome with a number indicating the count.
* They also changed the functioning of the program to show the union of two or more chosen outcomes as the total number on the bars in the graph.
* The daily stand up meeting was followed by a design meeting during which the possibility of changing the chart to a stacked chart was discarded as the top 5 outcomes changed with the chosen outcome.
* Since there was a lot of empty space below the chart the number of frequent outcomes was increased from 5 to 10.
* Suggestions were made to add descriptions at the top of the chart to indicate what criteria were chosen by the user to generate this chart.
* 508 Compliance was discussed
* Recommendations were made to change the colors of buttons so that when the user chose a filter, his selection was clearly visible to him.
* Suggestions were made to draw a box around the filters and have a label for each filter to make it more user friendly
* A list of open source tools used was created
* A WebEx demo was conducted with Jim Glass for feedback.
* He mentioned adding manufacture name and reviewing the logo as he thought that the logo did not indicate that there is any content for devices.
* The design team also discussed filling up the empty space before graph generation with some text

25th June, 2015

* The daily stand up meeting was conducted
* Sprint 2, 3 and 4 were populated with user stories
* The development team refined the web pages
* The testing team was asked to create defects in JIRA
* Git accounts were setup for additional labor categories and several commits were made
* Suggestion was made to make all Ajax calls with HTTPS instead of HTTP.
* The daily standup was followed by another meeting during which the team was informed about the extension for the prototype delivery
* The team then decided to implement sprint 2, expand the device list.
* The documentation team decided that photos of the team members working together need to be captured to show as evidence. Several pictures of the team members were clicked
* The documentation team also noticed a few points that the RFQ mentioned regarding the README file and had a review meeting regarding the same.
* A new approach to the README file was considered to meet the criteria mentioned in the RFQ

26th June, 2015

* The documentation specialist reviewed the README file with a few others for feedback. A new and better approach was considered after considering the feedback and input provided.
* This was followed by the daily stand up meeting wherein the team members discussed their progress status
* The development team decided to begin working on sprint 2 while the testing team worked on sprint 1
* Suggestions were made to groom the user stories.
* The team decided to conduct another meeting the same afternoon.
* The team specified the product version as 0.25. Version 1 would be the full product available at the end of sprint 4.
* The testers had the Selenium scripts ready.
* The documentation specialist was asked to add all the supporting documentation for sprint 1 to Git .
* A sprint1 review meeting was conducted. The meeting began with a description of agile and scrum methodologies, the advantages and disadvantages.
* The scrum master explained the 18F project reports and charts that are generated on JIRA for sprint 1
* The business analyst explained the user stories and the developer showed a demo of the working prototype for sprint 1.
* After the review session the team began planning sprint 2.
* They decided to include a link to the fda from where the results were obtained
* The team planned to resize the website for Android and iOS operating systems.