

Project Retrospective Team 2

We had to develop a plug-in for JIRA and here is a retrospective of our project: what has worked well and what has not.

Things that worked:

The project was overwhelming at the beginning, most of us had very limited knowledge and experience of agile planning methods. We had to overturn our understanding of “project contribution” which led to chaos at the beginning, everyone was having a lot of ideas but we had to consider that our time is limited. Nevertheless, with time we managed to focus on the most important features and to adjust our scope. We are glad that our team managed to learn how to use the Kanban Board and Happiness Index to track project procedures systematically. We also reached a consensus to have an additional meeting every sprint to exchange knowledge, our enthusiasm for communication and commitment carried the project.

On the other hand, we had many assumptions and questions about the project expectations at the start. Most of us didn't have experience with the software we had to develop a plug-in for - Jira. However, our business partner gave us high flexibility on the requirements, they appreciated our results and encouraged us to be creative at every meeting. Every group member contributed to planning the directions of the project. We experienced an overwhelming sprint when we could not release any feature and had a completely new code structure, however we trusted each other and this pause led to the necessary achievement of our main function.

We steadily managed to work together with the agile methods. We have managed rough times with understanding toward each other, committed clear and correct codes for others, provided cooperation and task reviews. At the end of the project, we also redefined the product scope as agile as we can.

Things that could be improved:

We also had some challenges we struggled with till the end of the project. The Atlassian Programming tools are not part of our university courses and on top of that development documentation was poor. We had to invest a huge amount of time in researching and attempting possible solutions. It would be nice to have some experts, experienced in Atlassian Programming from the project or business partner, who provide some reviews and guides. Besides the experiments of uncertainty results, we also underestimated the complexity of Atlassian, we could have avoided spending too much time on setting a wide scope of features and creating mockups that we couldn't finish.

We feel pity that we lost one of our great teammates in the middle of the project. We appreciated the contributions she made and wished she could share this achievement with us.