

Individual Reflection - Linus Magnusson - Week 4

__What do I want to learn or understand better?__

After this week's supervision we realized with the help of Mazen that the key to get better at Scrum is to apply all the rules and really play by the rules. So this week we used the roles of PO and Scrum master much more precisely and carefully. In the sprint planning meeting we simulated how it would look like in reality with the PO's (we use 2) stating what they think would bring the most value to our users and then the team with the Scrum master (me) arguing or coming to an agreement on what tasks and user stories we could accomplish this week. We did our first try at an effort estimation but it was very hard and we didn't have anything to compare the effort with so we did our best. But we found a good planning poker tool that we plan to use in the next sprint planning meeting to hopefully achieve an even better estimation.

This week we had 2 pairs of 2 working on tasks together and 2 people working solo, me and Sigrid worked on finishing the database and then our first attempts to create a map with folium from our database. We worked really well together, and from what the other pair said during the sprint review they also worked well together. So even though most of us have never met before, our team work seems to be going flawlessly so far.

Next sprint is the first real sprint where we will try to integrate the tasks we have worked on separately together. So I'm sure we might find some new challenges with that, since none of us are really that experienced with the frameworks we have decided to work with. But it's a learning experience, in the agile workways as well as in creating a website, for almost all of us.

Everyone had some really good ideas on how we should proceed in the next sprint, and I am sure the 2 persons who are PO's for the next sprint will have some solid insight on what our next steps towards maximum user value will be.

We had a goal as a group to be very precise and stick to the "documentation" of how to use scrum this week, it felt very structured and we all knew what was expected of us. So in that sense it was a great sprint. We did accomplish what the 2 PO's wanted us to do for the sprint, and most of us even did some extra work to prepare for the next sprint. We are all keen to explore and learn more about the different frameworks and APIs that we have chosen to work with.

During our meetings, since I was the scrum master, I was the one pretty much dictating the topics and keeping the meeting going. I hope that next week's scrum master can keep up that work, but I have faith in Sigrid (not sure if Sigrid is scrum master next week).

The team reflection went much smoother than last weeks, especially since it was easier to reflect on the different questions after we had properly made use of Scrum. Which is the key to this course, less focus on the final product and more on Scrum and reflections. We are here to learn about agile processes and not how to develop a website.

I was really surprised during the guest lecture when he brought up the topic of “research rounds” (or whatever he called it) before they actually started the scrums and sprints. It felt exactly like what we did last week, and when Jörg during the guest lecture sounded really surprised about the fact that they had had research rounds and questioned him about it. Because to me and to the group it feels necessary to do research and decide on a plan on what to work with in the project but also how to do it. So Jörg being that surprised to hear that they did research really surprised me, because it feels so natural to do before you start a big project, especially when you are working with a mix of people that may not have worked together before.

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