**Sprint Retrospective Report**

**Group 4 - Fantastic 6**

**3 March 2022**

**W. Tenzing, F. Kocaman, V. Katipally, A. Flores, A. Hernandez, M. Vasani**

**1. What worked? (*Provide examples of what went right on this Sprint/Project)***

One thing that worked particularly well was our choice of collaboration tools. We initially demoed various agile project management softwares, like Scrumpy and IceScrum, but we found them to be rather inflexible and incapable of constructing the sorts of tables and data visuals we had envisioned. To that end, we settled on using Google Sheets as it allowed us to make tables that matched our group preferences regarding data fields, attributes, and layout. Moreover, it allowed for effective collaboration since we could all actively be on the platform and see each other's changes in real-time.

Another thing that went well for us on this project was our distribution of work. Everyone took on a roughly equal amount of tasks, which helped the group to ensure that no particular member felt neither overworked nor overburdened. Also, since every anticipated and planned task was always listed in our spreadsheets, it was easy for the team to have a good idea of the direction we were heading in and the things we should be thinking about at every stage of the process.

**2. What did not work? (*Provide examples of what went wrong on this Sprint/Project)***

Our estimations of how long certain tasks would take is an aspect of our project that did not work very well. We underestimated certain objectives, like the writing of the vision and scope document, and ended-up having rather unequal sprints in terms of effort required to finish as a result. Moreover, because we felt a little bit rushed at the end, perhaps we didn’t give our project as deep and thorough of a review as we should have.

Secondly, our process of peer-review did not function adequately. At the beginning of our project, we agreed that everyone should review everything, but perhaps this prevented the group’s members from spending a sufficient amount of time reviewing any given task. To that end, perhaps we should have assigned formal duties for the review process (e.g, group member 1 shall be responsible for the quality assurance of the first three sections of the V/S Doc.), as accountability can sometimes lead to better, more-thorough efforts.

A third aspect of our project that did not go as hoped was availability. Our schedules were all pretty different, so it was difficult to find a time when we could all meet, apart from on Fridays after class. We ultimately settled on Mondays as other designated scrum meeting time, but the full team was not always present/available.

**3. What are the main challenges?**

Initially, we had a difficult time understanding the project's scope and objectives, of which required several discussions and deliberations to resolve. However, these discussions gave us a greater understanding of the project and gave us the knowledge we needed to move forward and succeed.

Another notable challenge we faced was coming up with an idea, or ‘edge’, for our product. We wanted to work with a concept that the average consumer could relate to; so, to that end, we decided to make our store a general purpose e-commerce platform akin to Amazon.

Thirdly, another roadblock we faced was figuring out our collaboration tools and deciding on which ones to use. We explored different requirements management tools such as ScrumPy and IceScrum before deciding on Google Sheets/Docs.

**4. Reflect on whether or not your team completed the Sprint backlog**

Our team was able to complete the sprint backlog that covered 4 sprints thanks to constant team effort and planning.

Time allocated to individual sprints was not consistent, resulting in an uneven distribution of work for the sprints.

In afterthought, we wanted to include some specific stories into earlier sprints but were unable to do so due to time constraint. We would like to spend more time during the next phase while planning the sprints and make sure we can cover all we want to.

**5. What were the main lessons your team learned?**

One of the most important lessons we learned is how important scrum meetings were. We could not have finished our project in an orderly way if not for the meetings. It helped us see each others’ progress and what remained of our tasks after each meeting. Knowing the team’s progress as well as each individual team member’s progress was crucial in knowing what tasks were ready for the next step and what tasks needed more work. During our scrum meetings, each member shared what they worked on and what they accomplished and at the end, the team decided who will do what task for the next sprint. We liked that the sprints were very short–it helped us stay on track and keep our focus.

Another thing that we learned was how much time it takes to come up with and develop a project from the start. There are a lot of things that we must know before the implementation aspect begins. Our team liked the agile approach in that we are doing a little bit of everything at the same time, and that made this project feel less strained and boring. Also, getting stuck on one thing would have kept us from seeing the big picture.

We learned we can put some things on the back burner and come back to it. The “Inspect and Adapt” mentality of scrum taught us a lot. It told us that we can change something if it doesn’t work and that we have the option to adapt and change if something is not working. We are not glued to anything and sometimes better ideas come later in the development process.

**6. What will your team do differently on the next Sprint/Project based on your team’s experience working on this Sprint/Project?**

On the next project, we will consider using different collaboration tools. The ones we used were effective for this assignment, but the next project’s tasks might necessitate access to greater or more precise functionality than what Google Sheets/Docs can offer us. And, moreover, it is always good to look for new tools that could possibly simply and streamline our work.

Additionally, we will look to have a more dynamic presentation - perhaps add more pictures/diagrams and maybe even ask questions to the audience to make it more engaging and less didactic. Furthermore, we intend to group-rehearse a greater amount of times than we did for our first-presentation, for which we only did one run-through. Doing this will help us with identifying the strong and weak points of our slide’s content.

Thirdly, on the next assignment, we will seek to follow scrum meeting procedures more closely. For instance, our stand-up often felt more like a free-for-all in the sense that there was no organization to our speaking, and we would often muddle around a bit before gaining traction and direction in our meetings. Then, also concerning meetings, we are considering changing the day and duration of our scrums, since we think that the days we currently settled on do not work particularly well, apart from Fridays.