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CS-250: Journal - Tester

Day One

I've been assigned to a new project starting this week. I'll be working with Nicky again as the project developer. In the past, we've worked well together and I look forward to working with her again. I'm wrapping up a few loose ends from my last project in the next day or so and will be meeting with Ron, the new project's Scrum Master tomorrow

Day Two

Nicky and I met with Ron today, and were introduced to Christy, the Product Owner. Christy gave us an overview of the objectives of the project and reviewed the timeframe and expected deliverables. We started out by discussing our definition of "Done." We have settled on defining "Done" for an in-process sprint item when all requirements for the user story have been implemented, passing an adequate battery of unit tests and test cases detailed within the User Story.

Once we finished this preliminary task we were able to create our Team Charter to hold us accountable for our work, and to establish rules of behavior and communication guidelines. Ron, our Srcum Master, did a great job walking us through the process.

Throughout the meeting, Ron was able to remind us about the various Scrum ceremonies, and the importance of each. We also decided that our Daily Scrum would be scheduled daily at 9:00 AM for no longer than 15 minutes and that our Sprint Duration would be 1 work week starting each Monday with a Sprint Planning ceremony and ending each Friday with a Sprint Retrospective ceremony. I particularly look forward to Storytime each week where we get to

assist in the refinement process. I'm excited to be able to help Christy develop the test cases for the User Stories she is refining.

Day Three - Five

I've finished wrapping up all other projects and assignments and am officially full-time on the SNHUTravel project. Nicky and I have been meeting with Ron to make sure we have all the tools and understand the project management tools that he and Christy like to use. Both Nicky and I are excited to get started.

We had our first Story Time which was a success! I was able to help refine a few user stories to improve test cases, but am happy to report that I also made several suggestions outside my testing specialty that were well-received. Overall it looks like the Product Backlog will be ready for Monday's first Sprint Planning ceremony.

Monday

We have the first Sprint Planning ceremony under our belt. The first always seems to be the most challenging since it includes non-client-facing features that are needed to support the overall development effort - which is not quite as fun as actual features that you can show the client. Nicky and I have decided to use the Pair Programming technique and a Test Driven Development approach for this project. We will both be working on developing unit tests and project code. Nicky is a great developer and I'm excited to learn from her years of coding experience.

We started by dividing the User Stories into individual tasks. We then did some process modeling

and class diagram to plan out what tasks we need to work on first. We'll have to first work on

implementing the frameworks we will be using and setting up our IDE project accordingly. We

will then set up our mocking system so that we can create unit tests for the database, API, and

other services our application will be using without having to debug them directly. We will hold

off on implementing these services until needed, to make sure that we are using the most

appropriate solutions.

Tuesday-Thursday

Pair Programming is working out great. We've been able to move all of the Sprint Backlog's

items to a state of "Done". I've learned a lot from Nicky, and I think she's learned more about

unit testing from me. Along the way, we had some questions and had to reach out more than once

for assistance from the Product Owner or Scrum Master. One such e-mail inquiry is quoted

below:

> Christy,
> I have taken a look at your user stories and am developing test cases for the different
> features to determine whether the product passes or fails. I need a bit more detail so that I
> can use more specific metrics to clearly define my test cases. Can you answer the
> following questions for me?
>
> User Story One
> • Do all the "Top 5" trips need to be listed on the same page or should they be listed
> separately (like with a slideshow—big picture up top and description below)?
> • Should the list count down from 5 to 1 or start with #1?
> • Are we doing a top-five list for a specific type of vacation or will it include all types of
> vacation packages based on popularity?
>
> User Story Two
> • What kinds of column headers would you like to see for this option?
> • Trip name, location, prices, description—do you also want them to be sortable by user
> ratings?
> • Are we going to allow the user to specify a price range?

• How long are you looking for the description to be? A one-line overview or more comprehensive details?

User Story Three
• For the next user story, you indicate wanting a mobile app. Do we want to include every feature on the mobile app or limit the functionality?
• This user story seems more like an epic that will need to be broken down into smaller components. Can you give more details and wireframes for what you are envisioning here?

Thanks,
Brian

Unfortunately, the Product Owner, Christy determined that one of our Sprint Items that we believed to meet the definition of "Done" didn't meet her expectations. Although it passed the test cases and unit tests that we performed, Chrissy was able to find a test case that failed. I'm a little embarrassed to say that I missed this particular test case during testing. Fortunately, no other item in our sprint required the failed item as a dependency, and the Product Owner decided to add the item back to the Product Backlog for a future sprint. Nicky and I have discussed how to better test for edge cases going forward, and we are confident that this type of problem will not occur again.

Friday

As Sprint Reviews go, today's was fairly painless. With Christy and Ron's assistance, we were able to present all that we had accomplished during the Sprint and presented a very limited version of the system that displays the Top 5 Destinations. We briefly discussed the feature that we were unable to complete during the Sprint and answered the client's questions.

During the Sprint Retrospective that followed, we discussed in more detail what went well (including the Paired Programming and Test Driven Development) and the cause of the failed user story (the edge case that we hadn't accounted for). It was a good experience, and both Ron and Cristy seem satisfied with the plan that Nicky and I presented to account for these types of edge cases going forward.

I look forward to the remaining weeks of this project and expect to continue to learn more about the Scrum process.