



Southern New Hampshire University

Joshua Wozny

joshua.wozny@snhu.edu

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CS-250: Journal - Developer



Day One

Today I heard I'd be working with Brian again on a new project beginning soon. Working with him will be a great opportunity to learn more about unit testing and testing frameworks!

Tomorrow we are meeting with our Scrum Master, Ron, and the Product Owner, Christy. I've never worked with Christy before, but I understand that a passionate leader who is laser-focused on customer delight.

Day Two-Five

I'm glad to have wrapped up all outstanding items on my plate to be able to focus on the new project. I've had several meetings this week with Ron, Brian, and Christy to discuss the Product Backlog, create the Team Charter, decide on tools and frameworks, and other general housekeeping items to make sure we are ready Monday to jump into Sprint Planning, and diving into the Sprint. Everyone on the team is an experienced professional, ready to start the heavy lifting as soon as possible.

We had a Story Time late in the week to help Christy refine the Product Backlog. I was able to suggest appropriate story point suggestions based on experience with similar past projects. I'm confident that the Backlog will be ready by Monday for our first Sprint Planning ceremony.

Monday

We had a successful Sprint Planning ceremony. Ron was able to move the process forward without a lot of fanfare, and we settled on the number of story points that we can produce in our week-long sprint. I'm hopeful that we'll be able to increase our average velocity in the coming



weeks. Brian and I have decided to use a Test Driven Development approach, with Paired Programming to the greatest extent possible. We've found this technique to be worthwhile in the past and nothing about the current project points in a different direction.

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

Tuesday - Friday

Overall a pretty great week. We were able to complete all of the items in our Sprint Backlog. However, one of the items failed acceptance because we failed to test for an edge case. Luckily, the failed user story was not a dependency for any of our other work this week. Christy has returned the failed item to the Product Backlog to be worked on in a future Sprint.

The Scrum Master and Product owner have been great to work with. Christy has been responsive to my inquiries, and Ron has been patient with my occasional long-windedness in the Daily Scrum. Most recently, he was able to talk with our client to reduce her frequent direct communication with me, which I had found distracting.

The team has maintained the lines of communication well. Between our Daily Scrums and Wednesday's Story Time, we've been able to keep everyone up to date with progress and kept the process moving forward. In fact, both Ron and Christy have responded to my texts and



emails faster than I had expected. Of course, I only text them regarding urgent requests and save other needs for other planned meetings and ceremonies.

Week Four

We have sped well past the halfway point, and are in the final stages of development - with only a week to go to finish the project. We started the week in good shape. The burn chart showed that we are about 10 points ahead of plan. Unfortunately, we received a last-minute change from the client requiring us to end the current sprint early - an unusual event for sure. Christy notified us Wednesday morning that the client would like to refocus the initial rollout on wellness vacation packages rather than generic top-selling packages.

Once we regrouped, Brian and I caught up with each other to discuss the best approach to the new requirements. He is confident that the test cases we were already using can be modified for the new requirements. I'm also satisfied that the work we've done in our previous sprints is mostly transferable. To confirm our understanding I drafted the email quoted below:

Hello Christy,
Brian, and I have reviewed the new user requirements you presented today. We agree that the changes should have no significant impact on the scope of the work. In general, we both concur that, at most, the changes may add ten story points to the overall project. I'm sure that Ron will be setting up a Story Time with you very soon so that we can make sure the revised User Stories are ready to be added to a new Sprint that we can begin without delay.

To prepare for Story Time, which we assume will occur no later than tomorrow, we would like you to consider the following suggestions.

- Maintain the current layout of the slide with the destination name, picture, description, and price. This will allow us to focus our efforts on the underlying changes without being distracted by other concerns
- Do you foresee any major change in the test cases, beyond adding a case to verify that only wellness packages are being displayed?



- Any other changes that may impact our ability to deliver a minimally viable product by the end of next week?

Obviously, our hope is to provide more than a minimally viable product, and instead provide a product that “Wows” the client, so now would be a great time to make any other adjustments to the Backlog that need to be made to make this happen.

Respectfully,
Nicky

By Friday, we had started a new Sprint, having worked feverishly the previous couple of days, as a team, to update and refine user stories to satisfy the new requirements. Hopefully, the client won't make any more changes as we wrap things up next week - but if she does we'll be ready - that's the Agile way...