

Individual Reflection - week 6

This week we have been spending a lot of time developing the backend, which is the part that will be doing actual route generation for our application. As we expected, this proved to be more complicated than what we have done so far, especially since we have a lot of parameters that we want the application to take into consideration. Just like the last couple of weeks, we started off with estimating the effort of the user stories in our backlog. I found this estimation to be a little bit harder than the previous ones since I found it a little bit difficult to completely grasp what needed to be done for each user story. When working with the user story that I took responsibility for, it also became apparent that it was possible to interpret it in different ways with completely different implementations and interactions with the rest of the application. This was an observation that the rest of the team also had made regarding the user stories overall this week, and something that we reflected on in our weekly team reflection. My takeaway from this is that in future projects starting off with thoroughly defining the MVP and early on start planning the backend to accomplish the main feature of the application. In our case we might have put too much focus on the frontend, and making the application look as close to our mockup as possible.

For this week, I had the role as one of the developers in the team. The user story I have been working on has been to create a method to check elevation for a route. The major difference in interpreting this user story is whether the method should check whether a route meets the requirements given by the user and returning a boolean reflecting that, or whether it should check how much it differs from the preferred elevation given by the user. After communicating this dilemma with the rest of the group I chose the latter. Even though the method itself works as expected I do not feel confident declaring it done since I am not sure it will work nicely with the rest of the application. I do however feel like the team as a whole recognise this issue and agree that we for the next sprint need a clearer and better defined plan. Even though this sprint didn't go as smoothly as the previous ones, we all took this as a valuable learning experience and I do think both myself individually and the group as a whole made some good progress regardless. For the next week I will do my best to contribute in making the user stories better defined in accordance with the INVEST-criterias, so we can get the core functionality done by next week and effectively distribute the rest of the work that needs to be done.

For this individual reflection I also decided to read my earlier reflections, in order to get a sense of what I have learned regarding scrum since the start of the course. Something I noticed, and also thought about last week, is that in the beginning I confused the roles between scrum master and product owner. These different roles have become a lot clearer, especially since we started with the actual development and started keeping a backlog and making effort estimations. Before we started doing these things, it felt very easy for these roles to merge into a mix of both. With the activities that we do, especially during sprint

planning and sprint review, I now feel like I have a much better understanding of these roles and the differences between them.