

Reflection for interdependent project : Orphanage Website

This past Wednesday, my team and I were able to complete the website for Carissas sister's orphanage. Throughout this project I was able to learn a lot. I've done many group projects in the past before, but this time I was more aware of what we were doing and I was actually thinking about the process as I went along.

For this project we were able to practice a bit of the agile scrum process. Agile to begin with is meant to be flexible. We had a hard date set for the whole project to be completed, which was on Halloween. But all the other smaller deadlines that we would place were very flexible. Our team began by having 'scrum meetings'. Normally companies have 'daily scrum meetings' but since our team would meet every other day of the week, we would just talk about the project then. During that hour we would discuss about where we were on our individual assignments (either if we finished them, if we are still working on it or if we have any questions). Then we would also take that time to plan what we would do for the following days. Discussions about the project varied depending on our needs. If we felt like we knew exactly what to do, then we wouldn't really discuss anything and we would just work on the project. There would be some days where there would be changes happening either with team members leaving the group or the stakeholder changing their mind about certain aspects of the project, then we would have a bit of a longer discussion to make a plan and make sure that everyone understood what they needed to do.

In the agile manifesto it mentions how face to face interactions are way better than in other forms. We were able to prove that right at the beginning. We had decided to use Trello as a way to keep track of who was working on what and on all the changes. We quickly realized that it wasn't very effective, which is why it became even more critical to come to class on those planning days.

There were some scrum principles that I was able to see being applied in our project. The first thing that I noticed was that we were self-organizing. As a team we decided what direction the project was going to take. We assigned little tasks to each other and we would be in charge of when to meet and how to communicate. Another thing we used was collaboration. We recognized that we couldn't do this project individually and so whenever we had questions we would ask them to the group and whenever we had suggestions, we would do the same. We also did timeboxing. Timeboxing was figuring out how we were to use our time, our meeting times and our deadlines. This class really did give us an opportunity to practice that and learn how to make our own timeline of the project.

The overall concept that I learned was how to adjust to changes and how to organize myself in a group setting. If we were in a perfect world, our plan would be perfect from the start and nothing would go wrong. But realistically, things happen. Some people quit and you might need to switch roles (which was something we did during this project). Sometimes the stakeholder won't like something and you will have to change them. Sometimes you will run into problems that will force you to ask for help or take an alternative routes to accomplish a task. Learning to adjust to change can be difficult but it's very important and I feel like I was able to get a bit more comfortable with that.