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Course: Agile methods of Software development.

Question. The Scaled Agile Framework (SAFe) describes goals and plans at several levels of abstraction:

Investment Themes

Epics

Features

Stories

Tasks

Describe examples of each of these for a company like MyHeritage that produces software and services for genealogy research. That is, give specific examples of themes, epics, features, stories and tasks that might be used in planning and developing software that allows users to record and analyze their family trees.

Ans.

Scaled Agile Framework is basically used for large projects. There are three levels in SAF namely the Portfolio level, which is more related to finance and the future of the product, the program level, which deals with future of features and new important stories to be added to the project and the project level which deals with the implementations of various user stories.

Investment Themes:-

Investments themes are used to describe the set of initiatives that drive the enterprise investment in systems and applications. These investment themes establish the relative investment objectives and are also used to derive new Epics. For a company like MyHeritage, the portfolio should consist of business users and some management products to manage the information. The financial advisors and higher level managers will decide the budget for different section and products to be introduced in future at the portfolio level. They can work introducing new features in the future like sharing the family tree on social media. The can plan on making the interface more interactive with better scrolling and allowing the user to download the tree different file formats like Pdfs, Gedcom etc. This helps the company in getting some revenue along with the market share. Stakeholders also make decisions about the future investments and also about supporting old products.

Epics:

Epic is one of the requirement artifact which is used to describe the system at a particular level. Epics also lies in the portfolio level along with the investment themes. Epics represent the highest level need of a customer and are derived from investment themes. For a company like MyHeritage, epic can be a parser which takes the input produces the entire family tree based on the inputs. Epics can also be the overall interface provide to the user. These epics are prioritized in accordance with the market competition and needs of the customer. The information about the epic and its estimates are added to the product backlog. These epics are described in the form of stories which depicts that the user can interact with the interface. Epics are not detailed, they are just the Gist of the product requirements.

Features:

Features lies in the program level. Epics from the portfolio level are divided into smaller features, which are implemented independently. Therefore, features are more detailed version of an epic. In a feature, requirements are more detailed than in Epics. For a company like MyHeritage, the features can be displaying and editing information in the genealogy tree format can be considered as a feature. These features are described in a sentence or two, so that a user can understand them and prioritize them.

User Stories: -

Features are futures divided into user stories, which are handed over to the developer to implement them. Implementing User stories lies in the program level. Features are specified in detail in user stories and they consider all the requirements. For MyHertiage, a user story can be a particular functionality of the parser like exporting the files as GEDCOM file, printing the tree in a proper manner or sharing the tree on social media etc.

Tasks:

User stories are further divided into tasks, which are used to manage the user stories effectively. In order to make it easier for the developers to work on smaller units of a program, user stories are broken into tasks. For MyHeritage, a task can be considering a particular functionality of the parser in the software like throwing errors for wrong inputs, considering a particular case in the parser for eg- parents are dead etc. The user stories are said to be complete if all the tasks are working .