Module 4 Journal

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When developing the initial test cases, I mainly used the information in the Acceptance Criteria of the user story that the test case was based on to set goals for how the feature should work. For example, the Destinations Based on Budget test case was based on user story number 3. The first bullet in the acceptance criteria was “Destinations should be listed from lowest to highest.” This is reflected in the test case by the second input “Selecting a price range” and should result in the destinations being displayed from lowest to highest cost within price range. The user story’s value statement was another element that was helpful when creating the test cases. The value statement from user story number 3 was “As an end user, I want to view destinations based on a price limit so that I can choose a destination that fits my budget.” This shows the main concept of the user story, and helped set clear goals as to what the feature needs to be able to do.

Something that would have been useful prior to creating the user stories was knowing how the information would be displayed to the user. This would have helped me to better create each user story so that they better aligned with how SNHU Travel plans to get their information to the users. To get this information, I would have also sent an email similar to the one in this module’s assignment. It would also be helpful to know what types of vacations should be listed. While I have a decent sized list in user story #4, getting input as to any additional types and any that should be removed would help during the testing phase. Another thing that would have been helpful was knowing how the client would like to handle cases where the criteria that the user selects does not match up with the destinations available. For example, in the recommended list, what if there are no destinations that meet the past vacation locations, types of vacations the user enjoys, and their cost limitations? Should destinations that meet nearly all the criteria be displayed or should the user just be told that no destinations are available that meet the criteria? Lastly, in the user story about vacations based on budget, one of the acceptance criteria was “At the end of the list, destinations within $100 of price range should be shown.” Getting more information about how cases like this should be handled would have made it easier to get a set “out of price range.” As I don’t know how much vacation packages typically cost and the average cost differences between the destinations, I just guessed at this number.

Sample email:

To: Christy

Subject: User Story Clarifications

Dear Christy,

While developing test cases based on the user stories that have been created, I have come across a few situations that require extra clarification. I also have questions regarding the types of vacations that users should be able to select. If you could get back to me as soon as possible, that would be great.

**User Story 5: Recommendations List**

In the case that no destinations meet all the user’s information (past vacation locations, cost limitations, and types of vacations they enjoy), how should the system prioritize the criteria? Should the recommended vacations be mostly based on price limitations or the user’s vacation preferences? For example, if a destination fits the type of vacation the user typically enjoys but is not within their cost limitations, should it still be listed? Also, how many destinations should be shown in a full list?

**User Story 3: Destinations Based on Budget**

In the case that there are no destinations within the price range that the user has selected, or they have reached the end of the list of destinations within their budget, what should the cap be on prices just outside of their budget? While the plan is to still show the users a list of destinations that are just outside of the selected budget, how much higher is acceptable to be included in this list? Currently I have $100 as a placeholder, but knowing the exact number is needed to ensure this feature works correctly.

**User Story 4: Vacation types**

What types of vacations should the user be able to select? Currently we have cruises, tropical, mountainous, in/outside of country, popular cities, tours, family vacations, historical sites, and romantic getaways. Are there any other types of vacations not listed or that should be removed?

Thank you for your help,

Laci Walsh