Team reflection - Yavin - Week 7

Customer Value and Scope

- *Your user stories in terms of using a standard pattern, acceptance criteria, task breakdown and effort estimation and how this influenced the way you worked and created value*

After many weeks of practicing working with an agile approach, user stories for week 7 were created in accordance with the INVEST criterias. The acceptance criteria for each story during week 7 was agreed upon during our monday meeting. The INVEST criteria was also applied on a task level, and the acceptance criterias for tasks were decided by the team member that was responsibly for the task at hand, but with the mutually agreed story criteria in mind. The estimated effort between userstories, and between tasks for week 7 was proven to be realistic in hindsight. Each person spent a reasonable time for their respective task at hand. Noteworthy could be the GUI, where there were some additional obstacles with graphs but the problem was solved fairly quick.

Our approach to week 7's user stories and tasks helped tremendously with our abilities to work independently without having to keep up with what other team members were doing, showing how valuable the 'independet' part of INVEST really is. Subsequently, this week has been really efficient for the group in terms of value created per time spent.

- *Your acceptance tests, such as how they were performed, with whom, and which value they provided for you and the other stakeholders*

Our acceptance tests have mostly been implicit, we have not found value in defining acceptance tests in documentation. Rather tasks have been outlined in a way that ensures intended functionality is met when the task is completed. This has ensured sustainable progress throughout the project resulting in an ultimately better product for the customer. In the team, we feel that there is easier to work with such well defined tasks.

Teamwork:

The teamwork during this week has been good overall. Since everyone was able to attend monday's planning meeting and everyone got on the same page the remaining part of our MVP that had to be done this week, we made user stories and tasks that best covered our missing parts. Thankfully, after practicing creating stories and tasks in accordance with the INVEST-criteria we were able to plan user stories and break those into tasks this week very efficiently. This is most likely the main reason why every team member increased their individual satisfaction score for this week.

Burndown:
As we are approaching the end of this course, and our list of our predefined MVP the user number of tasks for this week was significantly smaller than previous weeks. However, they were substantial in creating value. Everyone was busy with things outside the scope of this course after the monday meeting and tuesday. However, starting wednesday everyone started working on their assigned tasks and were able to finish on time.

Team satisfaction:
See above under "Teamwork".

Stakeholder Score (satisfaction):
Today our designated stakeholder-communication person showed our stakeholder the progress for week 7, and got a satisfying response as we were able to finish our MVP. Although the stakeholder would have appreciated more done during this project, rather than just an MVP, he understands that we have had complications during the development of the product and that it had delayed our joint vision for the most desired version of the application. This is why we got a 7 out of 10 for this week.

Team satisfaction

Stakeholder score
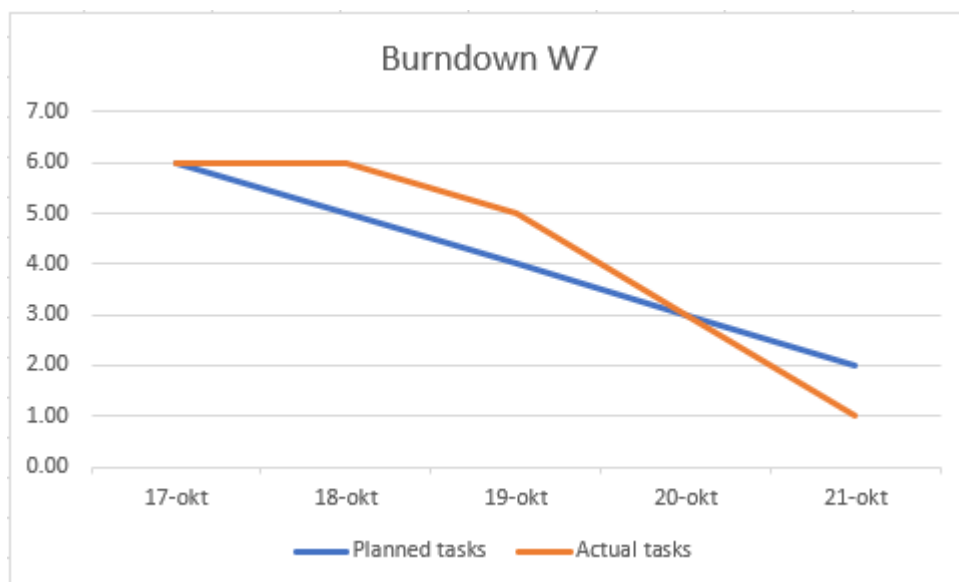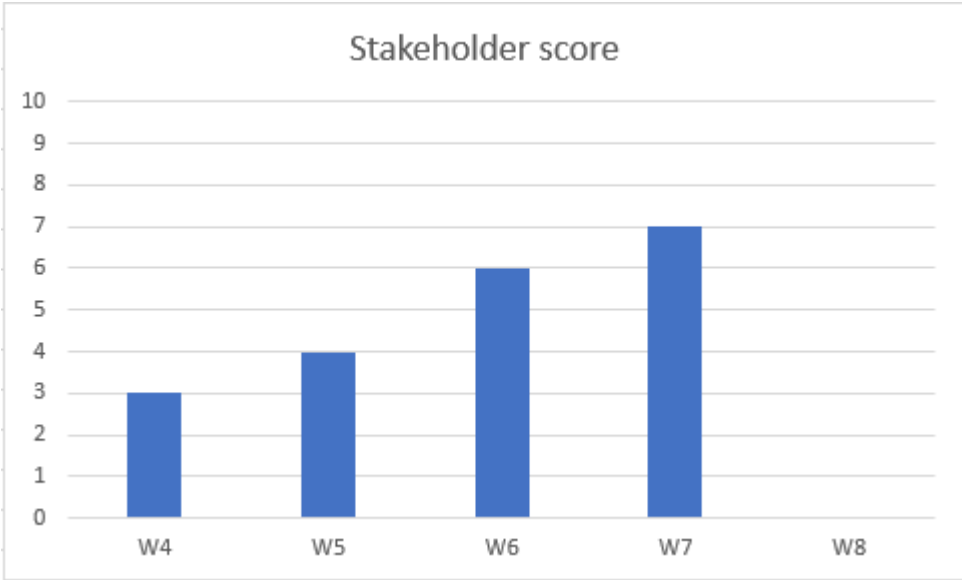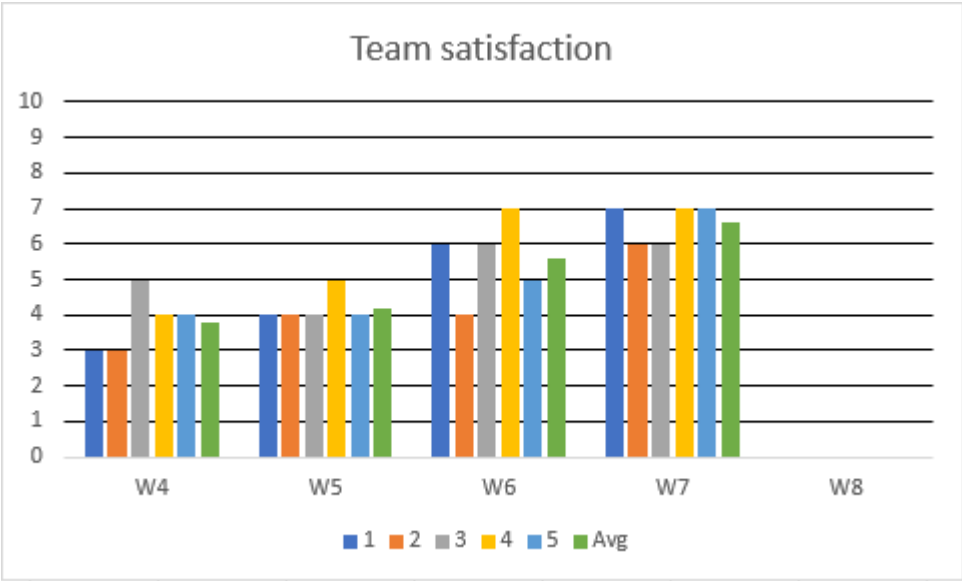
Social Contract and Effort

- *There is a survey (Links to an external site.) you can use for evaluating how the team is perceiving the process and if it is used by several teams it will also help you to assess if your team is following a general pattern or not.*

  Due to our continuous check-ins along with our KPI for team satisfaction we have opted not to spend time on this survey. Instead, we found great value in the team satisfaction KPI as it helped us highlight and deal with related to group-dynamics and ultimately with problems in the code.

- *The time you have spent on the course and how it relates to what you delivered (so keep track of your hours so you can describe the current situation)*

  We have not tracked our progress in terms of hours spent, but rather tasks completed. Tasks have been awarded based on appropriate workload for each member and thus the hours spent on a given task are relatively homogenous among the team. Rarely a team member feels that a task has taken up too much time. In these cases where it has, the reason has been for learning purposes, that is when the task was not completed in the most effective way but rather as a means of learning.

Design decisions and product structure

- *How you ensure code quality and enforce coding standards*

  By code review, we feel it is essential that we to the extent possible, given our knowledge and experience, contribute code that is as closely aligned with coding standards as possible. We have in some cases reworked code because it was made incomprehensible for others to utilize due to poor alignment with coding standards. This has been the exception not the rule. But code review sessions have been integral in ensuring code quality and enforcement of coding standards in this aspect.

Application of Scrum

- *The roles you have used within the team and their impact on your work.*

We have continued since basically the start of this course with a designated scrum master. Once we found and started communicating with a stakeholder for our product, we have also had a designated person responsible for all stakeholder-communication. This person have had the responsibility to summaries the team's thoughts about past work and what is needed for future week/weeks, and then communicated this in a sensible way to our stakeholder. Then return to the team with the stakeholder's feedback and sense of how much they have valued the past week + the product as a whole.

- *Relation to literature and guest lectures (how do your reflections relate to what others have to say?)*

In the guest lecture, they noted that the planning is one of the most important aspects of agile project management, for agile development to be effective it is critical that all members can work independently. For this to be possible the planning and hence daily scrums, sprint reviews and retrospectives need to be of very high quality. To this we can say that we fully agree. We have noted a high benefit in our collaboration as well as the quality of our code as we got better in the planning regard, the session for sprint retrospective and review have gotten incrementally more robust and thus our contributions have been increasingly aligned with the Invest framework.