Software Development Life Cycle: Tester

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CS-250-12948-M01: SDLC

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November 22, 2024

The most important element in the User Stories would have been a crystal ball. Because this week’s tester assignment was based on the interpretation of the UI survey, in which the PO was at liberty to conclude features without verifying against the client's wishes, the User Stories were obsolete. They didn’t match the wireframe, which depicted a near-static non-browser-based application. This means user stories, while robust and indicating a modern web solution, failed to convey the requirements were a figurative cardboard sign.

Good critical communications would have been conveying the right appropriate technologies and architecture for the site. This includes specifics on how the software will be used e.g. the internet, a terminal, etc. The ability to maintain or update the software, data structures, and timelines. All these things are critical to a project’s success.

Many of these missing requirements would have been easily obtained from the first meeting with the client. The product owner would have most certainly asked what the software use case is, what the user devices are, concerns about accessibility, the type of environment the software was part of, and when it needs to be completed. These are all non-technical questions that allow the product owner to suggest the appropriate requirements and set expectations.

To get this information, the tester should speak to the PO, who could speak to the Client and it could go something like this.

To John

Subject: Product Requirements / User Stories and Wireframe

Dear John,  
  
 We just got the wireframe, and this looks a lot different than the full-stack project that was planned. Can you please check with the client to be sure they want a static site? The way this wireframe is built doesn’t meet the UI survey goals, won’t be maintainable if they need to update their business later, and could even damage the company’s reputation as a trustworthy site by the look and feel of the application.

We need to make sure they know what are asking for before building something like this. You should really push for a quality site. Building this could hurt our reputation as a software development company if our name is tied to this. To be frank, if this is truly what they want we should get someone higher up involved. If the company doesn’t need the money and this is what they want we should consider passing up this opportunity.  
  
Thanks,  
Matthew Dunfee