



Meliora

Good Today, Better Tomorrow

CS 407 - Software Engineering Senior Project

Sprint 3 Retrospective Document

Team 9

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What went well?

In general, we developed the final set of advanced features of Meliora. Now, a user can create their own categories, unbookmark posts, and view notifications. In addition, we also developed an emotional quotient (EQ) points system that monitors the interaction level of users and rewards them with more EQ points.

User Story #1 - 2.7, 7.1

As a user, I would like to view my recent notifications on the navigation bar.

Completed:

When a user receives a follow, reactions or comments on their posts, or reactions or comments on posts they have engaged with, they will receive appropriate notifications according to their preference. They can view these notifications within a little pop up window accessed by clicking the mail icon in the navbar. They can choose to clear all of their notifications at once or delete them one-by-one.

User Story #2 - 3.4

As a user, I would like to see a trending posts section that displays the most popular posts of the week based on the total number of reactions (reactions defined in 4.1).

Completed:

When a user is on the homepage of the *Meliora* app, they will see a button called “Trending Posts.” When they click this button, they are successfully redirected to a new page where there is a list of trending posts based on the total number of reactions and popularity.

User Story #3 - 3.8

As a user, I would like to see a favorite categories section that displays the posts within the categories that I follow.

Completed:

When the user clicks the my categories button on the homepage, the posts from the categories they follow will be displayed separately. These sets of posts are dynamically populated by the application such that if a user unfollows a category, then the posts corresponding to that category will no longer be displayed in the favorite categories section.

User Story #4 - 3.9

As a user, I would like to be able to show/hide the details of a post like comments, reactions, etc.

Completed:

When the user is on the homepage of the *Meliora* app, they will see a “less” or “more” symbol on each post. When they click the “more” symbol, the post will expand to show reactions, flag icon, bookmark icon, and more. When they click the “less” symbol, the post will minimize to only show the post content and title. In default, the “less” symbol is shown when the user refreshes the page.

User Story #5 - 3.10

As a user, I would like to be able to sort posts in the home page or in a category by number of likes or number of comments.

Completed:

When a user is on the homepage of the *Meliora* app, they will see the filter option next to the “My Feed” header. When they click this button, they will see both options for sorting posts. When the user selects sort by likes, the posts on the feed are sorted by most reacted posts on top. When the user selects sort by comments, the posts on the feed are sorted by most commented posts on top.

User Story #6 - 4.10

As a user, I would like to create a category that is relevant to my post if one does not exist already.

Completed:

Categories are an important feature of *Meliora*. At the time of creating a post, if a user feels that the default categories do not match up with his or her post, then they can create their own category using the create category link from the homepage. This provides a way for *Meliora* to have a customized experience for every user of the application.

User Story #7 - 8.5

As a user, I would like to be able to change my notification preferences and settings.

Completed:

When a user is on the settings page of the *Meliora* app, they will see notification preferences dropdown. When they select this, they will have three options to choose from: no notifications, notifications for follows only, notifications for all posts I interact with & follows. When a user selects one of these three options, the database is successfully updated, and the user receives notifications based on what their selected preference is.

User Story #8 - 3.11

As a user, I would like to be able to filter posts based on their location (if time allows).

Completed:

Similar to sorting posts by likes and comments, users can also filter posts by their current location on the homepage. This shows the user the set of posts that were made previously from their current latitude and longitude. Another application of this feature is that users can find new users who may be residing in the same location as they are, thereby improving the interaction rate of the application.

User Story #9 - 4.6

As a user, I would like to be able to make drafts for my posts (if time allows).

Completed:

Now that this User story is implemented, users have the option to save a post as a draft, only to be seen by them. When creating a post again, all drafts are displayed in the draft box on the right side. Clicking on a draft populates the post's fields with the draft's information. When creating a post with a draft selected, the original draft is deleted.

User Story #10 - 4.11

As a user, I would like to share a post on social media applications (if time persists).

Completed:

With this feature implemented, user's can use a generated URL to share to other social media applications. This allows for spreading awareness of the application.

User Story #11 - 6.5

As a user, I would like to share my profile online by generating a public url in the profile page.

Completed:

When a user is on their profile page of the *Meliora* web app, they can click the three dots on the right corner of the page. When they do so, they will see a button they can click to generate a URL. When they click this button, a pop-up box will appear with a unique URL that they can use to share their profile.

User Story #12 - 4.14

As a user, I would like to upload an image with my post (if time allows).

Completed:

When a user is writing out a new post, they can click the image on to open their browser's file picker. They can then choose a photo to go along with their post. The post then shows up alongside their post wherever the post may appear.

User Story #13 - Additional

As a user, I would like to see suggestions for users and/or categories in the search bar

Completed:

Now that this User Story is implemented, when a user is using the search bar, each character typed will be queried in the database and return username results. When clicking on the results shown as suggestions, the input field is populated, and when search is clicked, the user is taken to the profile page.

User Story #14 - Additional

As a user, I would like to be able to un-bookmark a post that I have already bookmarked previously.

Completed:

When a user is viewing their bookmarked post, they can click the same bookmark button they used to bookmark it in the first place. When the user refreshes the list of bookmarked post, the one they wanted to unbookmark will be gone.

User Story #15 - Additional

As a user, I would like to gain EQ (Emotional Quotient) points when I interact with the *Meliora* app (when I create a post, react to posts, comment to posts, etc.).

Completed:

When a user is on their profile page of the *Meliora* app, they will see an “EQ” tally under their username. This tally successfully updates by 5 points when the user creates a post, by 3 points when they comment on a post, and by 1 point when they react to a post.

What did not go well?

One major problem that our group faced during this sprint is communicating during the break. During the same timeframe of the sprint, we had our thanksgiving break. This made it difficult to reach out to other team members if help was needed or a clarification was required. While it was expected to be this, our team should have circumvented this issue by considering other alternatives like finishing 2 weeks of work ahead of time.

Another major issue towards the end of our final sprint was that some of the major features were not working as well as needed very close to the end. This caused much stress to the people trying to practice the demonstration and to the people who were assigned these user stories.

Unsuccessful User Stories

Our group finished all of our user stories planned for this sprint. As a result, we did not have any unsuccessful user stories for this sprint.

How should you improve?

Firstly, our team needs to input more realistic user data that corresponds to how a user would use our application in real-time. For instance, we had posts that were named “test,” “dummy test,” “testing,” and so forth, which would not be used by an actual user while using the *Meliora* application. Although it may at first glance seem useful to use such data for testing purposes, it often falls short in many cases because without understanding the exact usage of the application it is difficult to determine the utility and the practicality of the app. This also took us more time in preparing for our final sprint demo. If along the sprint we had entered realistic post and user data, it would have saved us valuable time when preparing for the presentation.

Another thing we can improve on moving forward is work on more thorough testing of major features within our projects. Some of the features were not extensively tested beforehand, and that led to major headaches just days before the presentations actually took place. More robust testing can take the form of additional unit tests, more manual tests, or just general run-throughs of the app’s features.

Lastly, our team could have spent more time practicing for sprint reviews/presentations in advance. While we had planned to go over the presentation for the sprint review two days in advance, we were not able to because some team members took longer to implement their code due to busy schedules. Because of this, we only had one day to practice, and we had to cram everything into one night. In the future, we should plan to meet more in advance and allocate more time for the preparation meeting for the final presentation. This will help avoid any mistakes in showcasing the app as well.