D3 – Group Stierna

What is

There hasn't been much done in the way of implementation, as problems with the platform have stood in the way of progress. Now, in the middle of sprint 3, these problems seem to be getting resolved, which means that development of the platooning technology can soon be underway.

As far as process goes, there are both positive and negative aspects. Daily scrum has not been daily, but is still done about three times a week, sometimes online. Since there isn't a lot of implementation being done, the team members don't feel like daily scrum adds any value as of now. A big problem is that the resources of the group aren't being utilized optimally, but steps towards improving on this has been taken. The biggest such step was when the group split into three sub-groups, with three different areas to focus on. This increased productivity, but not enough. On the same note, the tasks of the sprint backlog are fairly good when inspected according to the INVEST-criteria, but often fail somewhat in that they are too large. Lastly, communication within the group is good, and this is becoming increasingly true between groups as well. Lately, the team has asked for help from other groups more and more, which has lead to far quicker improvement.

Our KPIs have either worsened, or have remained unchanged when comparing sprint 2 and sprint 1. The Git-KPI is very much inactive, which reflects the productivity of the group with regards to implementation. Both happiness and estimation accuracy went down. The decreased happiness of the group is likely due to frustration and the many small problems that many team members had last sprint. Estimation accuracy being worse on the second sprint is mostly due to overestimating our velocity; whilst productivity did increase, we had expected it to increase more than it did.

What should be

We want to focus our time on developing features that directly provide value to the customer. This means implementing the platooning functionality in the shape of plug-ins or scripts that can run on the MOPED. We would have liked to have our own software running on the MOPED by now, and would like full platooning functionality to be implemented by the end of sprint 5.

As for process, the daily scrum should be done daily, and we would like for it to add value to the team members. The main goal, however, is to better utilize the resources of the team. As of now, many team members feel like they can contribute with nothing, which reflects both on productivity and on happiness.

Our KPIs should, of course follow a more positive trend, but we feel like they reflect well the state of the project. With higher productivity, both Git and Happiness should rise, and with experience, estimation accuracy should improve.

How to bridge the gap

The main issue is the utilization of resources, and it is here the team must improve. This would be achieved largely by overcoming the technical issues with the platform, but the team also needs to be more disciplined and active. It is easier to be more active when goals are achievable, so the team also needs to work on better defining tasks to be done. When stuck, we should ask for help from other groups, or sit down until the issue is resolved, rather than waiting for it to go away.