

Sprint Timeline Document

Santa's Workshop Puzzle – Project 3

Sprint-Based Development Timeline

This project was developed iteratively following a sprint-based workflow. Each sprint focused on a specific set of features, allowing incremental progress, testing, and refinement.

Sprint 1: Core Puzzle Logic (Foundation Sprint)

Duration: Day 1

Goals:

- Implement the core sliding puzzle mechanics
- Support dynamic grid sizes (3×3, 4×4, etc.)
- Detect valid tile movements
- Detect puzzle completion (win condition)

Tasks Completed:

- Designed grid rendering logic using JavaScript
- Implemented tile adjacency and movement rules
- Created empty tile handling
- Implemented win detection logic
- Ensured puzzle initializes in a solved state

Outcome:

A fully functional sliding puzzle that works correctly for multiple sizes.

Sprint 2: Game State Tracking (Gameplay Sprint)

Duration: Day 2

Goals:

- Track number of moves
- Track elapsed time
- Reset state correctly between games

Tasks Completed:

- Implemented move counter tied to tile movement
- Implemented game timer (start on first move, stop on win)
- Reset timer and moves on shuffle or size change
- Added visual status indicators for time and moves

Challenges:

- Timer starting too early or restarting incorrectly

Resolution:

- Timer starts strictly on first valid move
- Timer resets only on new game initialization

Sprint 3: Backend Integration (Persistence Sprint)

Duration: Day 3

Goals:

- Persist gameplay data
- Track sessions on backend
- Enable leaderboard storage

Tasks Completed:

- Created backend API endpoints using PHP
- Designed MySQL tables for users, sessions, and moves
- Implemented session lifecycle (start, record moves, end)
- Stored puzzle size, duration, and move count per session

Outcome:

Game data persisted reliably across sessions.

Sprint 4: Authentication & Security (User Sprint)

Duration: Day 4

Goals:

- Enable user login and registration
- Restrict leaderboard updates to authenticated users

Tasks Completed:

- Implemented user registration and login
- Added session-based authentication
- Displayed user identity in UI
- Allowed anonymous play but restricted leaderboard persistence

Challenges:

- Session validation issues during backend calls

Resolution:

- Centralized authentication checks in middleware
 - Ensured consistent session handling
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Sprint 5: Leaderboard & Analytics (Graduate Feature Sprint)

Duration: Day 5

Goals:

- Display leaderboard sorted by performance
- Separate leaderboard results by puzzle size

Tasks Completed:

- Implemented size-based leaderboard queries
- Sorted leaderboard by time, then moves
- Synced leaderboard size selector with puzzle size
- Fixed first-completion persistence bug

Outcome:

Accurate, size-specific leaderboards updated in real time.

Sprint 6: UI/UX & Theming (Polish Sprint)

Duration: Day 6

Goals:

- Improve usability and visual clarity
- Apply a consistent theme
- Enhance user feedback

Tasks Completed:

- Redesigned UI layout for clarity
- Improved tile visibility and interaction cues
- Added win overlay and feedback messages
- Applied a festive Christmas/Santa theme
- Ensured accessibility and readability

Outcome:

A polished, visually engaging application suitable for presentation.

Final Review & Testing Sprint

Duration: Final Day

Tasks:

- End-to-end testing of all features
 - Verified leaderboard accuracy
 - Tested multiple puzzle sizes
 - Verified authentication flows
 - Cleaned up unused code and debug logs
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Conclusion

Using a sprint-based approach allowed structured progress and continuous improvement throughout the development cycle. Each sprint focused on a clear goal, ensuring both functional correctness and graduate-level complexity were achieved.