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CIT 275

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Agile Concepts and Project Afterthoughts

**Agile Programming Concepts and Project Afterthoughts**

As the product owner I tried to fulfill my duties giving input and direction as to what to accomplish in the project, however without the incentive of money or influence like I would have on a jobsite, I found it hard to motivate the team towards the goal of project completion. I started off following the scrum concepts in the book, even going as far as creating product owner stories which were posted on campfire and included in this folder along with a final user story as a tester.

I perfectly understand the scrum framework, such as the division of labor, creation of sprints, Source Control, and backlogging the successes and failures of each sprint. I found user stories to retard the development process though, as a lack of information is emphasized in each story. This works alright early on in development, but after a few sprints only certain users need to be documenting their work and it just seems it should be more detailed than: “As a tester, I want 95% coverage for all classes.”

In team projects, Source Control is essential in not only keeping track of updates to a project, but also in figuring out who destroyed the project with bad or insufficient coding. For this we used Github, which works marvelously for tracking every change to a team repository, forcing us to label every commit just so it is documented.

Project backlogs help to keep track of what does and does not work and the time frames it takes to executes tasks. It is important also to document features yet to be installed in the backlogs as a way of keeping records of things still left to do.

I feel as a team we did all of these things well, with the exception of user stories, which were largely ignored by the team. Our greatest folly was time management and having a student product owner. In my case, I felt I could have served the team better as a programmer but was not allowed to help due to adherence to the product owner role. In future classes, this position should only be held by the instructor as they are the only ones really capable of motivating a group since they do determine the grades. I think future projects will work better with this approach.