

Sprint 2 Reflection - October 18th, 2019

This sprint focused on setting up the repo and java classes, AWS, and polishing the SRS document. We had some development work but majority of the time was spent on configuring AWS and deploying the code.

Workflow

Our team worked very well in dividing up the workload for tickets. We created stories for each ticket and assigned story points. The story points were somewhat random, and we probably could have utilized the Fibonacci sequence for assigning points. We were able to adapt the agile model in class by adding online standup and using the JIRA board effectively to move tickets across different states of work.

Code Quality

The quality of code being produced was a bit lower than expected from the convention. Part of this is because the team hasn't spent a lot of time in IntelliJ working with Java and Maven/SonarQube. A lot of new technologies were introduced and a bit of web development knowledge was necessary to deploy the code. The beginning of the sprint was quite slow and most of the time was spent learning new technologies. The code being produced needs better documentation and the syntax could definitely use better formatting. There was a lot of confusion around Git that caused the code quality to be lower because branches were being rebased and merged into one giant one. Given the constraints and limitations, I believe the team was as effective as they could be and there is only room to grow.

Technology

Half of the team did not use any of the technologies beforehand. One team member used Git before and has some understanding of SonarQube. I believe the team did not have time to learn and use Jira, Github, SonarQube, Postman, and AWS correctly. There was a big technological learning curve and it definitely worked against our team.

Teaming

Everyone contributed to the code and SRS based on their assigned tickets. Alice and David had more a learning curve and contributed less to the setup of AWS. Dian and I definitely had step in to help setup the team's environment and teach them about Git and Jira.

Improvement

The team also needs to work on communication. There were periods where David did not communicate to the team his intentions and also did not participate in standup. We need to get better about responding to PR and Slack communication as a group.

Accomplishments

We polished the SRS. We setup the code base on our local environments and deployed the code to AWS. We also were able to setup interfaces and classes and a JSON object to represent users.

Developer

My contributions were mainly in raising issues about high priority tickets. I talk to the team about story points and user stories and got them to adopt the user story ticket writing process. When necessary I brought current processes and how we can further improve our process by making slight changes to it.

Most of my contributions were setting up AWS and helping the team get an understanding of Git and Jira. I have used all of these technologies at work and have the most experience in them. So I was able to get the remote environment setup and with Dian's help, we were able to install dependencies and get the instance running on AWS. A small portion of my ticket was dealing with User profiles and classes and UX wireframes.

I setup the calendar to identify times we could meet remotely or in person. Since we couldn't meet up for standup, I setup Olaph to do remote standup three times a week. Whenever I had a question or concern, I would reach out to the team immediately via Slack. Most of my mentorship was spent helping the team understand Git/Jira conventions. Dian and I helped Alice setup AWS.

Scrum Master Role

Sprint Planning - unfortunately, I had a funeral memorial to attend and was not part of the sprint planning. However, the sprint plan was quite an over commitment. However, I wasn't sure if we could change it.

Communication barely existed with the TA. We talked to the professor, but I think most of the conversations were able technical issues. We need to be better about communicating with the product team. Alice had issues setting up AWS mainly because she was overwhelmed with not

knowing anything. I reach out to Alex and the Professor, on Alice's behalf, to setup our repo to accept AWS connections. I helped her by setting up the AWS instance and got Dian to help her with installing dependencies.

I believe we came to a consensus on our overall process quickly and easily (i.e. how to name branches, what to do with story points, and how to write stories). We decided as a team to do stand ups three times a week online through Slack. I setup Olaph to send out stand up notifications to our channel. David did not participate in stand ups initially, but reaching out to him helped him understand the importance of communication. We had issues arranging meeting times because everyone had different schedules, so I worked with the team to setup a Google Calendar where we could see each other's availability.

The biggest obstacle was the use of various technologies. Beyond reaching out to team members, I also tried to mentor them in setting up and using the technologies. Unfortunately, I can only do so much if the team does not spend time learning about the technology first.

The team's progress was extremely slow at first, but that was expected as we were learning new technologies and Dian was out for a conference. The burn down chart definitely showed that we waited until the last minute to merge our branches and complete the tickets. I would hope that the team spend more time early on working on tickets for next sprint, rather than waiting until the last couple days.

Team Member Reflections

Good

This time, Dian definitely stepped up again, even when he was out for half of the sprint. He helped me install the dependencies on AWS after I setup it up. Alice was assigned the ticket for AWS, but she didn't know how to setup AWS, so we both stepped in. Alice, Dian, and I were very communicative over Slack and always available for a PR request.

Average

Dian and I completed our tickets in a timely manner. We managed to complete our B grade sprint goals.

Bad

Alice and David waited until the last couple of days to work on their tickets. While I get that we are all busy, waiting until the last minute to complete tickets is not how we should work. David

was completely MIA and not completing his standup or tickets and did not communicate very well during this sprint. On the last day of the sprint, he was frantically trying to merge one giant branch with all of his tickets. He instead went to brunch with his grandfather and came back one hour before the sprint was about to end. I had to fix his branch and merge it for him. When asked to move over his tickets, he waited until the last minute. I have approached David on multiple occasions to name his branch based on our decided conventions and to break up his PRs in more manageable pieces. He was argumentative, but promised to follow our team's convention for the next sprint.

Rating		Comment
Tanner	7	I stepped up and helped the team understand Git, Jira, and AWS. I helped Alice with her local environment and her tickets. Mentored David on best practices. I completed all my tickets on time.
Dian	7	He also stepped in to help with AWS. Mentored Alice on Git and helped her with tickets. He completed all his tickets on time.
Alice	5	Completed her tickets, but some tickets waited until the very last moment.
David	2	He waited until the last day of the sprint to work on his tickets. When asked if he would participate in stand ups, he instead went MIA. He was working on a single ticket to setup his local tomcat for the entire first 8 days of the sprint, and when we reached out to help, he was not responsive. Please be more receptive to people giving suggestions rather than argumentative and combative. He was late to meetings, even the retrospective. Commits did not follow convention and code was subpar.