Tutorial 10

What is going on with the team?

We are conducting a retrospective to document how our team feels about the sprint.

Discuss an issue, devise an experiment, and try it out.

We have faced issues regarding the existing process in which development code is uploaded to our development branch. Due to the structure of our repository, we have one branch per deliverable as opposed to one branch per phase of development. This has led to a surplus of PRs to the deliverable 3 branch, which is where most of the code changes are required.

To address this issue, we want to streamline code uploads. This can be reflected through a new branching system, such as creating a feature branch per issue and formalizing the nomenclature of our branches. For example, the branch *SV_center_page_content* would contain code written by Sophie Vu that centres the content of the page. That branch would create a PR, go through automated and peer review testing, and then be merged into the main branch.

We can try this out for UI adjustments, such as font sizing and colour modifications.

Successful experiment review

In our recent project, our team was struggling with an issue related to uploading development code to our main branch. Our repo, organized with one branch per deliverable instead of per development phase, resulted in a flood of PRs to our *deliverable 3* branch. This overflow was mitigating our progress.

To address this issue, i came up with a solution: experimenting with a feature branch per issue and formalizing our branch names. For example, a branch named *SV_center_page_content* would house code centred around Sophie Vu's work on page

content. This branch would then go through PR, automated testing, peer review, and finally merge into the main branch.

We tried this new approach by testing it on UI adjustments like font sizes and colour tweaks since they are low-risk investments. The outcome was great! The new branch structure and nomenclature made it super easy to track changes and understand the goal and purpose of each branch. Additionally, it smoothed out the PR process. This helped reduce the number of PRs to the *deliverable 3* branch and to make reviews more manageable.

However, we had a lot of challenges. For example, the team needed time to adopt the new workflow and habits. At first, there was a spike in the number of branches. This raised a lot of concerns about miscommunication if mismanaged.

The pros of our new process outweighed the cons since it eased overflows and sped up development efficiency. The clear nomenclature simplified things for our team. This helped them understand the purpose of each branch and their changes.