Software Engineering Practice: Course Review

Bjarne Pfitzner

December 1, 2016

We chose to use the the Scrum technique for our project. I had used Scrum before in a summer internship, so I already had an idea of how we would structure the project and use the Scrum possibilities. I read through some of the material about Kanban and Extreme Programming on the course webpage, just to see if they work better for our project, but we all preferred Scrum.

We scheduled weekly meetings with our supervisor, which made it very easy to remain on track. We used Trello with User Stories for our backlog and weekly sprint backlogs, which was a good idea, because we could see the progress every day. It was hard sticking to all the guidelines all the time for example to have daily Scrum meetings, because of quite different timetables and obligations.

Gitlab has as aways proven very valuable to be able to work on different features individually and after changing our project direction, we configured Jenkins to automatically deploy the latest git push to the server accessible from everywhere inside the Imperial College Network.

We did not encounter any major problems with the software engineering technique used, so we did not have to make use of Robert Chatley's office hours.

I think that the change in course structure from multiple deliverables to supervisor meetings was a great change, because it allowed us to stay focussed on writing code and adding functionality instead of worrying about report structure and questions.