Evaluation-2007-04

Evaluation

Present: Christian, Karl, Adriaan, Ronald, Wout and Marcel

Planning

We forgot to plan in the left over issues from the previous sprint. This caused over-planning in the beginning. We should always take in account the left over issues from the previous sprint when planning.

If you look at this sprint, quite a lot of tasks exceeded their initial estimate. So perhaps we are often under-estimating tasks. We should reserve more time for making tests, learning new stuff (using OSGi, dependency manager, etc.) and doing it the correct way (this sometimes results in doing things two or three times, as doing it once gives insight in how to improve it). We were guilty of "trying to make it fit" probably.

For Karl (mainly) and Marcel that means more time should be reserved for engineering support.

All the tasks we planned were executed by the same person. Whilst this is not a problem in itself, it is dangerous because the tasks might not be described correctly.

Another thing we noticed is that people tended to work on multiple tasks in parallel. That might not be the best way to do tasks, as it delays the testing process and does not give a good overview of the overall progress.

Finally, we discovered that we (deliberately) underplanned the support (Fadian, ...) and that took considerable time.

Process

All issues are already assigned to people in the beginning of the sprint. During this sprint we encountered that one person could not continue his work as i.e. the required software is not present yet. In cases like this it should be more easy to grab another issue (high prio) and start on that. We agreed that this should be done in the stand-up meetings, based on priorities of our sprint goals. In the end we did not want to keep all unplanned issues in the backlog (or some kind of sprint backlog) and assign them dynamically.

We reserve hours for system administration, Sol4Power, Conferences, etc. etc. What should we do if someone exceeds (or is likely to exceed) the reserved time? Should we be more strict in this (disallow it)? Because letting people exceed those hours means less engineering capacity, and is a risk for the sprint goals (most of the times has direct influence on them). Simply put, we need to prioritize everything, and use that as the basis for our decisions. Right now it sometimes feels like everything but the project has "highest priority" and that the total amount of interference has increased.

The sending in of hours, using confluence, works very well.

We did not plan a code review this month, because we started "from scratch" on the back-end.

Delivery

No comments here, there was not much to deliver in the end.

Miscellaneous

Adriaan is going to be at PANalytical for 3 days a week next month(s).

Karl stated: **we need focus** and **we need time**

Ronald did a lot of overtime this sprint and does not want to do so again next month.

We all agreed we should try to work together on related stuff.