**7-1 Final Project: Sprint Review and Retrospective**

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**Applying Roles**  
 Throughout the SNHU Travel Project, I assumed multiple roles within the Scrum-Agile team, which allowed me to understand the value each role brings to a successful project. As the **Scrum Master**, I facilitated Agile ceremonies like sprint planning, daily standups, sprint reviews, and retrospectives. During standups, I encouraged open communication to identify blockers early and resolve them collaboratively. For instance, when we encountered delays in integrating the wellness-themed images, I prioritized tasks and coordinated between developers and testers to realign on our sprint goals.

As the **Product Owner**, I focused on representing stakeholder interests by ensuring user stories were clear, prioritized, and aligned with the client’s vision. For example, when SNHU Travel requested a pivot from generic destinations to wellness-specific locations, I worked closely with developers to refine acceptance criteria. As the **Developer**, I collaborated with teammates to implement features based on refined user stories. This included replacing images and descriptions with updated wellness-themed content. Lastly, acting as a **Tester**, I ensured the product quality met acceptance criteria by testing the slideshow transitions and verifying that all user stories were addressed. Each role was integral, emphasizing the importance of teamwork, communication, and collaboration in achieving project goals.

**Completing User Stories**  
 The Scrum-Agile approach proved instrumental in delivering user stories efficiently through incremental progress. The flexibility of Scrum allowed us to break down large user requirements into smaller, actionable tasks that could be addressed within a sprint. For example, the initial user story—“As an end user, I want to see a list of travel destinations so I can plan my trips”—was completed in the first sprint with basic text and placeholder images. However, when the Product Owner introduced new client requirements for wellness-themed destinations, Agile’s iterative nature allowed us to adapt mid-project.

In sprint planning, the team redefined the user stories to reflect updated priorities, such as: “As an end user, I want to see yoga retreats and hot springs so I can choose wellness destinations.” The sprint backlog was updated to include new images, descriptive text, and navigation testing. This adaptability ensured that the most critical tasks were prioritized without disrupting the overall project timeline. The team’s daily standups and sprint reviews provided opportunities to track progress, address blockers, and incorporate feedback, ultimately helping user stories reach completion on time.

**Handling Interruptions**  
 One of the standout advantages of the Scrum-Agile approach is its ability to handle project interruptions and changes efficiently. Midway through the SNHU Travel Project, the client shifted focus from general travel destinations to wellness and detox-themed locations. In a traditional waterfall model, this change would have resulted in significant rework and delays because of its sequential nature. However, the Agile methodology allowed our team to pivot quickly.

During a backlog refinement session, we reprioritized the user stories to focus on the wellness theme. New requirements were broken into smaller tasks, including updating images and text descriptions, testing slideshow navigation, and ensuring acceptance criteria were met. For example, I collaborated with the Tester to verify that each image displayed correctly and transitions worked seamlessly. Agile’s iterative framework enabled us to address these changes without compromising the overall quality or timeline of the project. This flexibility ensured the client’s evolving needs were met efficiently, demonstrating the strength of Agile in handling dynamic requirements.

**Communication**  
 Effective communication was a critical factor in the project’s success. Scrum ceremonies—such as daily standups, sprint reviews, and retrospectives—created a platform for open dialogue and collaboration. Daily standups were particularly useful in fostering team alignment by addressing progress, challenges, and next steps. For instance, when delays occurred in obtaining new images, the standup provided an opportunity to discuss the issue and collaboratively find a solution, such as temporarily using placeholders until the final assets were ready.

One example of clear communication was the following email I sent to the Product Owner and Tester to clarify priorities:

**To:** Product Owner and Tester  
**Subject:** Clarification on Wellness-Themed Requirements  
**Body:**  
Hi Team,  
As we move forward with the updated requirements for wellness-themed destinations, I want to confirm the following:

1. Are there any additional features (e.g., hyperlinks or pop-ups) required for the new images?
2. Should the descriptions be limited to one sentence, or do we have room to expand further?  
   Please let me know if you have any additional input. I want to ensure our next sprint fully aligns with stakeholder expectations.  
   Best regards,  
   Samuel Alexander Black

This email effectively clarified requirements, minimized ambiguity, and ensured all roles remained aligned. Good communication fostered transparency, reduced risks of errors, and encouraged collaboration, helping the team deliver a high-quality product.

**Organizational Tools**  
 Scrum principles and organizational tools were instrumental in the project’s success. The **product backlog** served as the single source of truth for prioritizing tasks and tracking progress. During sprint planning, the team collaborated to break down user stories into smaller tasks and add them to the sprint backlog, enabling a focused and iterative development process.

Additionally, Scrum ceremonies like **sprint reviews** provided an opportunity to showcase progress and gather feedback from stakeholders. Retrospectives allowed the team to reflect on what went well, identify areas for improvement, and plan actionable changes for future sprints. For instance, during the retrospective, we identified that image sourcing took longer than expected, prompting us to allocate extra time for similar tasks in the next sprint.

While we primarily relied on manual tracking, tools like **JIRA** or **Trello** could have further improved efficiency by providing visual dashboards to monitor tasks, deadlines, and team contributions. These tools enhance team transparency and accountability, aligning with Agile principles to promote collaboration and continuous improvement.

**Evaluating Agile Process**  
The Scrum-Agile approach proved highly effective for the SNHU Travel Project.

* **Pros:** Agile’s flexibility allowed the team to adapt quickly to changing client requirements. The iterative process enabled continuous delivery of functional increments, ensuring progress could be showcased and reviewed regularly. Scrum ceremonies like daily standups and sprint reviews promoted team alignment, transparency, and feedback.
* **Cons:** Agile requires strong communication and collaboration. Without proper tools or consistent participation in ceremonies, progress can be hindered. Additionally, changes mid-sprint can create delays if not carefully managed.

Given the dynamic nature of SNHU Travel’s requirements, the Scrum-Agile approach was the best methodology for this project. It allowed the team to respond efficiently to interruptions, maintain quality, and deliver a final product aligned with client expectations.