Final Sprint Review

* **Applying Roles**:
  + Our team assumed various key roles within the Scrum-Agile framework that led to the SNHU travel application a success. The Product Owner helped to define user stories and ensure that the stories aligned with our business goals. For example, the Product owner facilitated a focus group to help add more features to the app and make the SNHU travel application more competitive. The user feedback led to user stories like the Top 10 destinations features and sorting vacation recommendations based on prior bookings. The development team a group of cross functional developers turned the user stories from the focus group into function components of the SNHU travel application. My role as the Scrum Master was to remove obstacles, facilitate collaboration and open conversation between all teams, and support the Chada Tech team in adopting the Agile methodology. This was done by introducing daily stand-up meetings, encouraging pair programming, and Sprint Planning and Review before and after each iteration.
* **Completing User Stories**: Describe how a Scrum-Agile approach to the software development life cycle (SDLC) helped user stories come to completion. Use specific examples from your experiences.
  + The Scrum Agile approach helped user stories come to completion by continuously refining and adapting them per iteration. When using the waterfall methodology progress was linear and immutable once it begun. With Agile we were able to pivot based on feedback received and business needs. One key example was when the team had to pivot to the new hot trend delivered by the Product owner. When the team received news that we needed to focus on “Wellness retreats” we were able to incorporate this request into our next sprint and create a new category on the website.
* **Handling Interruptions**:
  + One of the key advantages of the Scrum Agile approach is flexibility. Due to the short nature of the sprints, customer/stakeholder feedback and changes in project direction can be incorporated quickly into the next iteration. Through sprint planning and backlog revisions interruptions are a non-issue within the Agile framework. One example from our experience is when the product manager hosted another survey to try and gather more user feedback on how to make the site more competitive. One of the most popularly requested features was to add a way for our customers to see the locations on google maps rather than just stock images. The product owner and I the Scrum Master thought this was a great idea to get more engagement on the website and for the customers to get a better idea of what their potential destination looks like. The product owner then re-prioritized the user stories, and we revise the backlog during the next Sprint Planning meeting.
* **Communication**: Demonstrate your ability to communicate effectively with your team by providing samples of your communication. Explain why your examples were effective in their context and how they encouraged collaboration among team members.
  + As the Scrum Master it was my responsibility to facilitate our Daily Standup Meetings. I kicked off every meeting by asking my team to start off by sharing “What did you complete yesterday, What will you be working on today, are there any obstacles preventing you from progressing forward?” This gave the team members structure on what was shared and kept them on topic. It gave me an opportunity to understand where we are currently at with the project and to help them by removing or solving any impediments that they might be facing. This open forum discussion encouraged sharing between the team, empowered them to ask for help, and kept them focused on the goal of the day. Daily Stand ups weren’t the only means for transparent communication. We also completed a Sprint review at the end of each iteration where we went over what went well, what could have been better, and if we met all acceptance criteria.
* **Organizational Tools**:
  + Several organizational tools were used to help our team be successful during this transition. One of the tools that we used the most was to organize the team and measure our progress was JIRA. This tool puts stories, bugs, and assorted tasks into one place for team members to see who is working on which task and where they are at with it. It increases visibility and prevents two team members from working on the same task and wasting time. Work was assigned to specific team members, and they had the ability to check if the task has yet to be started, in progress, or completed already. This tool was used to keep track of team member productivity and to see what areas are falling behind. There are also dashboards and reporting that provide team velocity, summaries from sprints, and review. This tool promoted efficiency by providing tasks, measuring progress, and providing summaries for velocity and review.
* **Evaluating Agile Process**:   
  + Describe the pros and cons that the Scrum-Agile approach

Pros

* + Adaptability. Quick turn around and implementation for changes to objectives and priorities.
  + Team collaboration. The team works together daily through pair programming, open discussions, and review. This increased team moral and had them all focused on the delivering an excellent product.
  + Incremental progress. Time to review what is going well, where changes are needed, and how to proceed before and after each sprint.
  + User feedback. Faster delivery of a usable product, ability to gain user feedback that can be incorporated in the next iterations to make it better.

Cons

* + Changing the team’s behavior and mindset while implementing the Scrum Agile methodology. This was the biggest challenge by far, gaining the team’s trust that this new process will improve our workflow and productivity. Walking the team through their new role expectations and working together through pair programming rather than programming alone. This resulted in longer initial daily meetings, longer sprints, and lack of participation during sprint planning and review.
  + Determine whether or not a Scrum-Agile approach was the best approach for the SNHU Travel development project.
    - The Scrum-Agile approach was the best approach for the SNHU Travel development project. The requirements for the project were ever evolving required consistent feedback from the customers and stakeholders. The feedback was incorporated during the sprint planning and sprint review stages. The implementation of the feedback into our product helped us deliver a desirable and functional product in a timely manner. These changes/pivots would have taken a lot more time had we still be using the waterfall methodology due to its immutable nature. The Agile methodology allowed my team to be more cohesive, adaptable, and efficient while developing the SNHU travel application.