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CS-250

Sprint Review and Retrospective

October 17th, 2021

Hello Dev Team! It is with great pleasure that I can say that we have made it to the end of the sprint. Since the planning session, we have seen a few changes to the user stories, but we were able to adapt and overcome successfully. I would like to take some time to recognize our team for all the hard-work we have each offered so that we were able to achieve our ideal outcome.

**Product Owner**

Before any of our development team began taking on the challenges we saw this sprint, our Product Owner, Sarah, began working with our customer to obtain the information needed to start building our backlog items. She was able to ensure understanding through the user stories we heard so that all of us had a clear idea of the expectations of our customer. Sarah also went above and beyond by contacting the customer mid-sprint when we needed further clarification on some of the tasks on our Scrum board. Sarah’s periodic check-ins and readiness to assist helped the team to succeed.

**Scrum Master**

Sarah’s involvement with the customer side of the equation allowed me to focus primarily on my Scrum Master duties throughout the sprint. As a team, we worked incredibly cohesively and picked up the new Agile concept quickly. Though we did seek further clarification during the sprint, we were able to work around the challenges, communicate effectively with our Product Owner, and build upon each other’s progress to achieve our goal together. With only a few reminders to keep reports concise during our daily stand-ups, and teaching some new concepts, such as Planning Poker, I was able to help this team achieve a level of Agile that many experienced teams still work to obtain.

**Development Team**

Team, we had a fantastic first sprint with our work for SNHU Travel. We had quite the learning curve to embrace, but the team’s willingness to learn the Agile way and work together to achieve our sprint goal was great. Your ability to work together to build our project simultaneously and rolling with the punches when we encountered some vague details from our customer that we had to work with in order to resolve was a resounding success.

**Project Completion**

The major keys to success that we saw came largely from our utilization of the customer’s user stories that demonstrated functionality and appealing features of the program. When provided the initial user stories, we were able to structure the tasks for each backlog item and evenly divide them amongst the team in order to maximize the progress made by the team. The benefits that we received from the user stories such as being able to be presented with deals based on historical data, helped the team know how to structure the development of the application.

When the team encountered a hiccup in development and were required to contact the customer again, we were fortunate to experience minimal impact since we were utilizing the Agile method. If our team was to utilize another methodology, such as the Waterfall method, the ripples would’ve been much larger and detrimental. Since the Waterfall method is a more sequential method and must be done in a plan-drive, streamlined method, the hold team would have their effort halted while waiting for the customer’s further instructions. Since we were using the Agile method, not all operations needed to be halted and focus could just be shifted until hearing back.

**Communications**

Over the past few weeks, our team has seen a shift in its communication style and has experienced some messages regarding the new processes. I have also sent some communications which helped guide some of our early stand-ups while we learned and adapted to the Agile system. I want to say thank you for the great responses you had as a team. The biggest change I think that we experienced, which I informed you about in my first communication, was that the stand-ups were a very linear format and are not meant for discussions within the team. I know that often times when we encounter an impediment or have questions, we try and capitalize on the opportunities we have most readily available, but I appreciate everyone’s understanding that this is not the correct procedure in the Scrum.

**Tools**

In addition to the new meetings and sessions we had over the past few weeks, we also so the introduction of new tools that we were able to utilize. The largest and most beneficial new feature that we saw was the implementation of the Scrum Board which helped us speak to each of our tasks during the Stand-up meetings. This board replicates the product backlog that the Product Owners create and help us track our progress individually and as a team as we progress through the sprint.

**SNHU Travel and Agile**

Each methodology has a idealistic project that can benefit from it. When it comes to the requests of the SNHU Travel application, the Agile approach was most ideal as it allowed the team to work simultaneously and helped spread the knowledge and work across the team. This choice of methodology was confirmed when we saw the issue mid-sprint in which we needed to work with the customer to verify our development goals. Despite this sprint being our team’s first experience with Agile, I do not feel as though we encountered any cons for this project. Great work team!