ChadaTech: Sprint Review and Retrospective

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**Applying Roles**

I took on various positions within a Scrum team throughout the duration of this course. I was tasked with transitioning from the waterfall methodology to Agile for the development of an application for SNHU Travel. The team included a Product Owner, Scrum Master, Developers, and Testers. This analysis examines the effectiveness of Scrum Agile practices applied throughout the project, focusing on their influence on the final output.

Every team member plays an integral role in Agile projects, and the Product Owner acts as a vital connection between the client and the team developing the application. In this capacity, I took on responsibilities far beyond traditional project management. This included gathering client requirements, conducting focus group discussions with end users, and translating their input into prioritized User Stories for the Product Backlog. These stories provided the foundation for the Development Team, guiding their efforts from inception to completion.

As the Scrum Master, I facilitated team coordination and supported Backlog management while ensuring transparency across the team. I served as the intermediary between the Development Team and Product Owner, organizing Sprint Planning sessions to decide which User Stories to address in the initial Sprint. We utilized story points to evaluate effort estimates for each story, and once development began, I orchestrated daily Standups. These brief meetings kept the team aligned, highlighted any obstacles, and encouraged collaboration. My primary focus in this role was ensuring the smooth implementation of Agile principles and practices.

Working as part of the Development Team offered me insight into software development and testing. As a Developer, I adhered to the best industry practices while designing and refining code. In my Tester role, I focused on creating test cases and working with the team to identify and resolve issues early on, embodying the principle of frequent testing throughout the development cycle. Together, these roles provided an output that drives the Scrum Agile framework.

**User Stories and Functionality**

The Agile methodology’s emphasis on incremental progress was instrumental in managing the SNHU Travel project effectively. User Stories provided a structured approach to capture end user requirements, breaking down complex functionalities into manageable pieces. Each story followed a standard format addressing the user (“who”), the requirements (“what”), and its purpose (“why”), ensuring clarity for all stakeholders and developers. This approach enabled the team to focus on critical features while delivering value incrementally.

**Adapting to Changes**

Agile excels in adaptability, and this strength was evident during the SNHU Travel project. When the focus shifted toward wellness and detox travel, we seamlessly adjusted our approach by revisiting existing work and revising accommodating the new requirements. This flexibility allowed the team to remain efficient and deliver results despite unexpected changes.

**Communication and Collaboration**

Clear communication was a cornerstone of success during this project. A fitting example involved coordinating changes to the codebase and testing processes:

To: Christy (Product Owner); Brian (Tester)

Cc: Ron (Scrum Master)

Subject: Clarification on new requirements

Hi Christy & Brian,

I’ve begun making adjustments to implement the changes related to detox and wellness travel destinations. Could you confirm whether the default setting should display these destinations, or if users should select them through their profiles? Additionally, Brian, could you share relevant testing scenarios to ensure alignment with the new requirements?

Thanks,

Tracy

This email conveyed necessary details concisely, sought clarifications, and facilitated collaboration across roles. Its tone reflected an initiative taking approach, maintaining professionalism, and fostering transparency within the team. This method ensured cohesion and encouraged teamwork during uncertain situations.

**Organizational Tools**

For the SNHU Travel project, we relied on tools like Azure DevOps and JIRA to implement Agile practices effectively. Azure DevOps aided in Backlog creation, Sprint planning, and User Story management, while JIRA streamlined task tracking and bug resolution. Virtual collaboration platforms such as Webex and Zoom replaced traditional physical information sharing tools, offering real time updates, and enhancing transparency, especially for distributed teams.

**Agile Evaluation**

The Agile framework presented both strengths and challenges during the SNHU Travel project. On the one hand, its iterative nature enabled frequent feedback and stakeholder involvement, improving the products quality. On the other hand, scope changes have introduced unpredictability, potentially affecting timelines and budgets. However, the ability to adapt to evolving requirements significantly reduced the risk of overlooking critical client needs.

Overall, Agile was an excellent choice for this project, providing transparency, flexibility, and opportunities to deliver value driven solutions. Nonetheless, evaluating project scope, resource availability, and stakeholder expectations is essential when deciding whether Agile is the best approach for a given situation.

**Resources**

Cobb, C. (2015). *The Project Manager’s Guide to Mastering Agile: Principles and Practices for an Adaptive Approach.* *Wiley.*