

## Sprint Review and Retrospective

ChadaTech – SNHU Travel Project

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### Introduction

The transition from a Waterfall to a Scrum-Agile approach in the SNHU Travel project has been a learning experience for the team. This retrospective evaluates how various Agile roles contributed to the project's success, how the Scrum framework helped complete user stories, and how interruptions were managed effectively. Additionally, I will assess the effectiveness of Agile communication, organizational tools, and the overall success of the Scrum-Agile methodology in this project.

### 1. Applying Roles in Agile

In our Scrum-Agile approach, each team member had a defined role that played a crucial part in the project's success:

- Scrum Master (My Role): Facilitated sprint planning, daily stand-ups, and retrospectives to ensure smooth workflow. Removed obstacles to keep development on track.
- Product Owner: Managed the backlog, provided clear user stories, and acted as the primary contact for stakeholder requirements.

- Developers: Built features based on sprint backlog items, provided estimates, and collaborated with testers to ensure functionality.
- Testers: Created test cases, validated features, and provided feedback on defects or improvements.

For example, during a sprint, the Product Owner clarified user requirements, which allowed developers to implement a new travel package filtering feature efficiently. Meanwhile, the tester's early feedback helped refine the user interface, ensuring a smooth experience for customers.

## 2. Completing User Stories in Agile SDLC

The Scrum-Agile approach helped us complete user stories efficiently by breaking down development into small, manageable tasks within sprints.

Example: One user story required the ability to filter travel destinations by budget and location.

By using Agile's iterative approach:

1. The Product Owner defined the user story and acceptance criteria.
2. Developers implemented the feature in phases, integrating user feedback after each iteration.
3. Testers verified the functionality, identifying minor UI inconsistencies that were fixed before deployment.

This approach ensured that the feature was refined and functional by the end of the sprint, rather than being fully developed and tested at the last moment, as would be the case in a Waterfall process.

### 3. Handling Interruptions and Changes

Agile's flexibility was critical in managing interruptions and scope changes. Unlike Waterfall, where changes require a significant overhaul, Scrum allowed us to adapt quickly.

Example: Midway through development, the Product Owner requested an enhancement to the booking confirmation page to include travel insurance options.

- Using Agile, we adjusted our backlog and shifted lower-priority tasks to the next sprint.
- The team held a quick stand-up meeting to discuss how to implement the change without delaying the sprint goal.
- The feature was added seamlessly within the sprint timeframe, demonstrating Agile's ability to adapt to new priorities without major delays.

This flexibility helped maintain momentum while ensuring stakeholder needs were met efficiently.

### 4. Effective Communication in Agile

Clear communication was essential in ensuring team alignment and collaboration. The following Agile communication practices were particularly effective:

1. Daily Stand-ups: Provided a quick update on progress, blockers, and next steps.
2. Sprint Planning & Backlog Refinement: Allowed us to discuss priorities and break down work into achievable tasks.
3. Retrospectives: Encouraged reflection on what worked well and what needed improvement.

Example: During one sprint, the tester reported an issue with how destinations were displayed on mobile. A Slack message was sent to the developer, and instead of waiting for the next meeting, they quickly addressed the issue, keeping the project on track.

This real-time collaboration and transparency helped the team stay efficient and proactive in problem-solving.

## 5. Organizational Tools & Scrum Principles

Agile tools and Scrum principles helped structure and organize the project effectively:

- JIRA (Task Tracking & Sprint Backlog): Helped visualize task progress and manage work distribution.
- Kanban Board: Made it easy to see which tasks were in progress, completed, or blocked.
- Sprint Reviews: Allowed us to demo completed work and gather feedback from stakeholders before release.

Using these tools, we maintained clear visibility into our progress and ensured that work was evenly distributed across the team.

## 6. Evaluating the Scrum-Agile Approach

### Pros of Scrum-Agile in the SNHU Travel Project

- ✓ Flexibility: We adapted to changing requirements without significant delays.
- ✓ Continuous Feedback: Stakeholders could provide input at multiple stages, improving the final product.
- ✓ Faster Delivery: Features were released incrementally rather than waiting until the end of the project.
- ✓ Improved Collaboration: Frequent communication kept the team aligned and productive.

### Cons of Scrum-Agile

- ✗ Frequent Scope Changes: Required constant reprioritization, which could sometimes shift focus.
- ✗ High Dependency on Team Discipline: Without clear commitment to Agile practices, the process could become chaotic.

### Final Assessment: Was Agile the Best Approach?

Yes, Scrum-Agile was the best approach for the SNHU Travel project because:

- The project required continuous feedback and iteration to refine the features.
- Customer needs and requirements evolved, making Agile's adaptability a better fit than Waterfall's rigid structure.

- Incremental development allowed us to deliver value early, rather than waiting for a final product release.

However, if the project had strict, well-defined requirements from the start, Waterfall could have worked, but it would have been less adaptable to changing user needs.

## Conclusion

The transition to Agile at ChadaTech has shown clear benefits in flexibility, collaboration, and efficiency. While Agile requires strong communication and commitment from the team, its advantages in handling dynamic projects like SNHU Travel far outweigh the challenges. As a Scrum Master, I have seen firsthand how Agile fosters team alignment, responsiveness, and continuous improvement, making it a valuable methodology for software development.