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CS 250

**Final Project**

**Sprint Review and Introspective**

**Applying Roles**

Throughout my team’s development of the SNHU Travel application, each Scrum role played a significant role in the project’s success. As the Scrum Master, I facilitated communication, removed obstacles, and ensured Agile principles were followed. For example, to alleviate delays during user story refinement, I would host recurring session mid-sprint to review and refine upcoming backlog items with the Product Owner and team. Doing this ensured that the backlog would always be ready and reduced any surprises in future sprint planning.

The Product Owner contributed to the SNHU Travel project by prioritizing user stories and ensuring that the customer value was at the forefront of every sprint. During one sprint, the Product Owner adjusted priorities to emphasize the user’s travel search functions. The development team collaborated to break these different travel search function stories into smaller, manageable tasks which resulted in consistent progress and faster delivery of working software. The tester also played a vital role in this project by ensuring that the final increment met acceptance criteria, helping the team maintain quality through continuous feedback and testing cycles.

**Completing User Stories**

The Scrum-Agile approach played a key role in bringing user stories to completion efficiently. The iterative structure of sprints allowed the team to focus on delivering small, functional components of the SNHU Travel application, rather than waiting until the end of development to deliver a full product. For example, in one sprint, the team completed a user story that involved a “Customized Top Five Destinations List.” The team achieved this by breaking it down into subtasks, or acceptance criteria, such as making the clickable link that brings the user to this list, ordering the destination list by popularity, and ensuring that certain destination attributes were displayed with each destination. Having Daily Scrum meetings allowed the team to quickly identify blockers such as when the client wanted to shift focus to detox/wellness travel destinations. The ability to adapt and reprioritize work through sprint reviews ensured that the most valuable features were always being delivered first.

**Handling Interruptions**

One of the key advantages of the Scrum-Agile approach was its flexibility when the project faced interruptions. Midway through the project, SNHU Travel management changed the direction of the project to focus on detox/wellness travel destinations. Instead of having to completely scrap what the team has already done, they were able to pivot and take what was already developed and made revisions to support the new requirements.

**Communication**

Effective communication was essential to this project’s success. Through two key communication methods, I was able to keep collaboration strong. These methods were daily stand-up meetings and sprint reviews. I executed each daily Scrum by scheduling each one at the same time every day, at the beginning of the workday, facilitated by me. Each daily Scrum would be exactly 15 minutes where each member would briefly share what they accomplished the day before, what they plan on the current day, and any impediments that need to be addressed and resolved. I would ensure that the daily Scrum meetings were kept short and focused. I would also track impediments immediately and follow up. Having these daily stand-up meetings helped to improve transparency and to foster team alignment on progress and obstacles. With sprint reviews, I would execute them at the end of each sprint. During these reviews, the team would demonstrate the completed work to stakeholders. Feedback would be provided, and a discussion would be held about what is next for the backlog. These sprint reviews proved to be beneficial as they promoted transparency with stakeholders and encouraged collaborative feedback early.

**Organizational Tools**

For this project, the team utilized a few organizational tools that helped them in being successful. Among these tools, JIRA played a critical role in coordinating projects and maintaining team efficiency. JIRA allowed for the team to create and manage the product backlog and user stories, track sprint progress through a digital Scrum board, and visualize workflows via burndown charts. The utilization of JIRA supported the team’s sprint events, particularly sprint planning, daily Scrums, and sprint reviews by providing real-time visibility into task completion and sprint goals. JIRA’s information radiator helped the entire team monitor progress and identify blockers early.

**Evaluating Agile Process**

Overall, the Scrum-Agile approach proved highly effective for the SNHU Travel project. There were pros and cons that came with this approach, but ultimately the pros outweighed the cons. The flexibility of the iterative process allowed the team to adapt to changing requirements, as seen with the focus change to detox/wellness travel destinations. Transparency through daily Scrums and sprint reviews fostered open communication and trust among team members. This approach provided continuous delivery of working software at the end of every sprint, providing the client with early visibility and opportunities for feedback. Ultimately this approach improved collaboration with its cross-functional structure promoting teamwork and collective ownership of the project outcomes. The cons were nominal at worst. Time commitment from the daily stand-up meetings and sprint ceremonies required consistent participation, which may be cumbersome and fatiguing to some team members. The learning curve, since this was ChadaTech’s first Agile project, took a bit of acclimation, especially with the initial sprints and the new tools and processes. Weighing these pros and cons, there is no question that the Scrum-Agile approach was the best approach for the SNHU Travel project. It enabled incremental progress, early client feedback, and a culture of collaboration that would have been difficult to achieve under the traditional waterfall approach. The project’s success demonstrated that Agile methods could significantly enhance product quality and team cohesion, making it a strong candidate for company-wide adoption at ChadaTech.‌