CS 250 Final Project

While working on the SNHU Travel project, I took on my roles of the Scrum Team. An agile approach was used to develop the application for SNHU Travel. The team that worked on this project consisted of the Product Owner, the Scrum Master, the developers, and the testers. During this project, I took on the role of each of these and applied Agile methods.

As a Product Owner, the goal was to ensure that the team worked on high-value tasks that aligned with the project goal. The Product Owner effectively prioritized the product backlog based on the customers’ needs. During the SNHU Travel project, the Product Owner helped to facilitate a clear understanding of customer requirements which allowed the team to focus on features that improve user experiences.

The Scrum Master facilitates daily stand-ups and sprint planning. This helped the team remain focused and address any impediments the team may have been facing. If the team would face any issues, the Scrum Master could coordinate meetings with the necessary people such as the Product Owner or stakeholders to resolve the issues efficiently. The Scrum Master is a resource to the Scrum Team and can provide guidance when transitioning to an Agile method.

The development team, which consists of developers and testers, worked together to collaborate and deliver incremental updates. During the SNHU travel project some of the requirements and user stories were changed based on the customers’ needs. The testers refined their test requirements based on the changes and the developers were able to change their code to meet the requirements of the user requirements and tests. The team could collaborate together to ensure code and test were written to satisfy requirements, and the team was able to contact the Product Owner to receive clarification needed.

The Agile approach was instrument in bring user stories to completion. The development of the SNHU Travel software can be very complex and the planning could be very tedious. With Agile, the team had the ability to break down complex tasks into small increments and create a product backlog. By prioritizing the product backlog, the team is able to effectively plan for sprints based on critical tasks. During the SNHU Travel project, the needs of the customers were used to create the user stories. By understanding what the customers wanted and needed, the team was able to create effective user stories and prioritize them for the product backlog.

Using an Agile approach is effective and crucial for adapting to changes and interruption that may occur during a project. During the SNHU Travel project, partway through the development phase there was an update to the user stories and what the customer wanted. For example, instead of displaying a list of the Top 5 destinations, the requirement changed to displaying a list of the Top 5 Wellness/Detox Vacation Packages. The team was able to quickly adapt to this change by updating code and tests to meet the requirements. A waterfall approach may not have been as favorable in this situation.

Effective communication is an important aspect of Agile. During daily stand-ups and sprint planning, communication between team members is critical for expressing concerns and suggestions. Having open communication helps to build a collaborative environment and ensure participation of team members. During the SNHU Travel project, there were changes in requirement that needed clarification. Team members were able to seek clarification, and this helped to ensure that requirements were satisfied and an effective product was delivered.

There are several organization tools that can be used in Agile that can help the team succeed. One tool that was analyzed during the project was JIRA. JIRA can be used to manage backlog and tack progress. This tool has the ability to visualize workflows and track task completion. During the Agile process, JIRA can be used to showcase completed user stories and gather feedback. Another organization tool that can be used is the Scrum Events. The regular events of Scrum, such as daily stand-ups sprint planning and retrospectives, can provide a structured and flexible framework that allows the team to stay aligned and focused.

There are many benefits of using Agile methods, but there can be some limitations or drawbacks as well. A benefit of Agile is the flexibility and adaptability. Another great benefit is that it helps to increase collaboration and communication with the team. An Agile method also allows for early detection of issues and time for adjustment, which is a great benefit. One limitation to consider is that Agile requires a high level of discipline and commitment from all members of the team to follow the Agile principles.

The Agile approach was effective for the SNHU Travel project. The flexibility allowed the team to respond quickly to changing requirements and the collaboration ensured that all team members were engaged and focused. The Agile approach is an effective framework and helps to support both the development process as well as the team collaboration. By continuing to reflect on the process and making incremental improvements, the team will be able to enhance their effectiveness and deliver effective products.

References

Charles G. Cobb. (2015). The Project Manager’s Guide to Mastering Agile: Principles and

Practices for an Adaptive Approach. Wiley.