Debynyhan Banks

CS 250 Software Development Life Cycles

7-1 Final Project Submission

Professor Thoma

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During the latest Sprint, our Scrum-Agile Team was tasked with developing and refining features for the SNHU Travel application. Initially, we focused on implementing a set of top travel vacation packages. Midway through the development, the Product Owner introduced a major change: SNHU Travel’s management had identified a market trend favoring detox and wellness vacations. The team had to pivot and incorporate these niche packages within the same timeframe. As the Scrum Master, I facilitated the Sprint Review and Retrospective sessions to reflect on the completed work, gauge the impact of changing requirements, and identify lessons learned for continuous improvement.

The Product Owner played a crucial role in maintaining a clear product vision and prioritizing the backlog to reflect market trends. When the shift to detox/wellness vacations emerged, we quickly reprioritized user stories, deprioritizing less critical features and focusing on the new niche packages. This direct, transparent communication ensured the Development Team knew exactly which features were most important. By promptly responding to queries such as providing detailed destination lists and relevant images, we minimized downtime despite the late-stage change. The product owner clearly articulated the need to integrate wellness-focused travel packages into the next Sprint increment. Her rapid backlog adjustment ensured that the team concentrated on delivering the newly requested content within the existing timeframe.

As Scrum Master, my role involved facilitating open communication, removing impediments, and ensuring the team adhered to Agile principles. I organized impromptu refinement sessions to incorporate the new requirements, coached the team on embracing change, and helped maintain focus on the Sprint Goal despite the altered direction. This alignment session clarified what was feasible given the time constraints and allowed us to adjust our Sprint Goal accordingly.

The Development Team members brought the product vision to life by translating user stories into working increments of software. In this project, developers coordinated closely to break down complex user stories. Throughout the development of the SNHU Travel application, the various Scrum roles worked together to achieve the project’s goals. The Product Owner ensured that the team’s efforts aligned with stakeholder priorities, rapidly adjusting the product backlog when changing requirements emerged. The Developer focused on efficiently coding new features and integrating them with existing functionalities. Scrum Master facilitated Scrum meetings, ensuring that impediments were promptly removed and that the team embraced an iterative, value-driven process. Together, these roles co-created a cohesive environment where continuous improvement and transparency became second nature.

The Scrum-Agile approach to the SDLC enabled user stories to move from concept to completion seamlessly. Instead of waiting until the end of a long development cycle, user stories were broken down into small increments. For example, when shifting focus from top 5 destinations to wellness/detox travel options, the Product Owner reprioritized user stories on the backlog, and the Developer implemented the changes within the same Sprint.

The project’s pivot to wellness/detox vacations mid-development demonstrated how a Scrum-Agile approach supports project completion despite interruptions. Instead of resisting or delaying changes, the team embraced them. This allowed the Developer to modify the code without derailing the entire project. Clear and prompt communication was a cornerstone of our team’s effectiveness, supported by Agile principles of openness and collaboration. For instance, when the Tester needed additional details on detox/wellness destinations, a concise and respectful email to the Product Owner yielded prompt clarification. This timely exchange ensured that coding and testing could proceed without delay. As noted by Arokya (2023), effective communication from Product Owners and other stakeholders fosters trust, aligns expectations, and streamlines decision-making. Regular stand-ups, Sprint Reviews, and Retrospectives further encouraged honest dialogue, enabling the team to identify improvements and maintain momentum.

Organizational tools and Scrum events played pivotal roles in keeping the team aligned, transparent, and responsive. The Product Backlog, managed in a tool like Jira, served as the central source of truth for priorities. Daily Scrums provided a platform for quick updates and impediment removal, while Sprint Reviews showcased working increments to stakeholders for immediate feedback. Retrospectives allowed the team to inspect and adapt its processes, leading to actionable improvements. By providing visual boards, information radiators, and burn-down charts, the team could inspect progress in real-time and make data-driven decisions to stay on track.

The Scrum-Agile approach presented both advantages and challenges. On the positive side, it allowed the team to rapidly respond to shifting requirements. However, the team occasionally struggled with maintaining a strict schedule when major directional changes were introduced. The need for continuous stakeholder engagement also meant that communication had to remain fluid and responsive. Nonetheless, the iterative nature of Scrum mitigated long-term risks and allowed the team to identify and resolve issues early. This resulted in a more valuable product for SNHU Travel.

Considering the evolving nature of SNHU Travel’s requirements and the organization’s desire to be a market leader, a Scrum-Agile approach proved highly effective. By embracing the Agile Manifesto’s principles, the team were able to deliver features that stayed relevant to emerging market trends. Although the transition from a waterfall model could present a learning curve, the improved adaptability, stakeholder satisfaction, and overall efficiency supported by Agile practices made it the best approach for the SNHU Travel development project.

**References:**  
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