Deri’yana James

10/18/2024

CS-250

Sprint Review and Retrospective

Looking back on the SNHU Travel project, I played several roles within the Scrum-Agile framework, and each one contributed in its own way to our progress. As the scrum master, I was responsible for organizing the key scrum events like daily stand-ups, sprint planning, and reviews which kept everything on track. In one of our sprint planning sessions, we did a wonderful job of breaking down the backlog and prioritizing user stories based on the client’s immediate needs. One key feature we focused on early was the flight-booking functionality. Making sure the team knew what to focus on first helped a lot in meeting those expectations and making the client happy.

When I stepped into the developer role, I worked closely with the product owner to make sure the user stories were clear and achievable. We used a test-driven development approach, so we were writing tests as we went, which saved a lot of time later. One example was when we worked on creating a dynamic calendar for the flight-booking feature. We tested the functionality after each change, which kept bugs to a minimum and helped us deliver a solid feature in the end.

What really made the Agile approach effective for us was how it broke everything down into smaller, manageable chunks. For instance, one of the main user stories involved building a search feature for flights and hotels. Instead of trying to tackle the entire search function at once, we split it into pieces like building the destination filter first and then the date selector after. It kept us from feeling overwhelmed and allowed us to make consistent progress. Also, with daily stand ups, we always knew what was done and what still needed attention. I remember after finishing the calendar functionality, we realized the search filter needed a tweak to include price sorting. It was a small but important change that Agile allowed us to handle quickly without derailing the whole project.

Midway through development, we faced a big interruption, the client decided they wanted to add a loyalty rewards system for frequent travelers. This made a huge difference, and it could have thrown us off if we were using a more rigid development model. But with Scrum, we were able to pivot without too much disruption. During our next sprint planning, we sat down and re-prioritized the backlog to make room for this new feature, pushing some less critical ones to later sprints. By the end of that sprint, we had a basic version of the rewards system ready, and the client was impressed. It wasn’t perfect yet, but Agile gave us the flexibility to adapt to the new direction without feeling overwhelmed by the change.

Communication was a big factor in the success of this project. We used Slack as our main tool, which helped us stay in touch, especially since some of us were working remotely. One specific moment when the product owner clarified some acceptance criteria for the flight booking feature. There was confusion about how the search results should be displayed, and it could have caused delays. But we jumped on a quick virtual call to sort it out and were able to get back on track right away. That kind of open communication paired with regular feedback during sprint reviews kept us from miscommunication or misunderstandings.

The tools we used made a significant difference too. We relied heavily on Jira to keep track of everything. Breaking down each user story into smaller tasks, assigning them to team members, and tracking progress made everything more manageable. The Scrum Board was super helpful during our stand ups because we could all see exactly what was in progress, what was done, and what still needed attention. These tools kept everything moving forward smoothly.

Looking back at the process, the Scrum-Agile approach was effective for this project. The best part was being able to deliver functional pieces of the product at the end of each sprint. The client was always in the loop and we could make changes before moving too far in the wrong direction. However, there were some challenges too. The biggest one was dealing with last-minute changes, like the loyalty rewards feature. It forced us to constantly reprioritize, which could sometimes delay other features. But in the end, Agile’s flexibility made it possible to adapt and keep the project on track.

Overall, the Scrum-Agile framework was the right choice for the SNHU Travel project. Flexibility and communication made the development process feel smoother and more collaborative. We faced challenges but Agile gave us the tools to handle them without losing focus on the end goal. It was a great experience, and I can see how this method could benefit other projects at Chada Tech.