Davis Brayall

CS 250

Final Project – Sprint review & Retrospective

I planned, organized, and ran the meetings we had during this sprint as the scrum master. During each meeting, my task is to keep everyone on the same page, both as a team and in reference to what we are working on at that particular time on the project. I also ensured the backlog was updated every time it needed updating, as we finished things, as our plan changed and so on. I also updated our task board as our team completed tasks, progressed in tasks, changed tasks, tasks were changed, tasked added or removed, and so on. This was especially important when the stakeholders requested a change in the program we were creating to focus on detox/wellness over what they originally wanted. This required me to change the backlog and the task board with our new tasks and priorities. During the sprint review meeting I led our discussion on the work we had completed, the changes we had, the challenges we faced, the next steps in the project, how best to proceed with the project, and how our team has grown during this sprint.

The product owners’ main task was to communicate with stakeholders and end users, then provide that information to the rest of the team. These meetings with the stakeholders and end users helped them create and/or update the user stories with the updated information, requirements, as well as desired features. The product owner’s ability to acquire this information and then share said information with the rest of the team in a clear and concise way was instrumental in the team’s ability to get the tasks done the way the stakeholders wanted quickly and according to the stakeholder’s desires.

Our developer wrote code with industry standards, that they keep updated on regularly, at the forefront of their mind. They were able to quickly fix any errors or issues that our testers found while testing the code. The developer was also able to adapt to the changes our product owner brought to us from the stakeholders and end users. They were able to do this without delaying the sprints original timetable. During the meetings, they were able to keep everyone updated on what was done, in progress, changed based on updated user stories, any issues that they were facing, as well as explain the issues in hopes that someone might have an idea to progress.

One of our testers’ first tasks is to develop test cases based on the user stories, which are created based on stakeholder and end user inputs, as well as the planned code. These test cases are updated as needed throughout the sprint as needed by any changes made. They test the code in a variety of ways to ensure everything runs smoothly. When any errors, issues, or other problems arose, they immediately brought the issues to the developer’s attention, providing as much detail as they could. This ensured that the developer could correct it quickly. The tester also had excellent communication with the product owner. This allowed them to adapt the test cases to the new parameters set by the stakeholders change request mid-sprint. Our team’s excellent communication practices allowed for the tester to quickly adapt to the new situation and helped our team get the sprint done the way the stakeholders wanted and on time.

The agile approach allowed our product owner to get detailed information that was clearly collected from our stakeholders and end users. In turn this allowed them to create accurate user stories for our team to work with. Our team was able to use this strong initial start to create a solid but flexible plan that we were able to adapt later in the sprint to changes requested by the stakeholders, and also helped us create a solid timetable that we were able to maintain. The excellent communications, adaptability, and flexibility of the scrum method allowed the team to change the plan mid-sprint and meet the stakeholders’ new expectations on time.

When the stakeholders changed the project to focus on wellness/detox destinations, our product managers excellent report with them allowed for a quick understanding of what they wanted. This allowed them to convey the changes to the rest of the team and the team to adjust the plan for the rest of the sprint using all the agile features at there disposal. The team was then able to finish the new plan for the sprint on time.

Our team had an initial planning meeting that laid out what we were going to accomplish, how long it would take, what each aspect’s priority would be, and so on. Our daily meetings kept the entire team updated on the progress made, changes to priorities, and whatnot using our communication skills we fostered working together. Any ideas in how to improve the project were also discussed here, along with issues that had come up. Group conversation helped our team solve these issues. Our different perspectives were a benefit. An example of this was our meeting after the product owner had a meeting with the stakeholders and they requested a change in the product to focus on detox/wellness destinations. We worked as a team to figure out a new plan to achieve the stakeholders request within our original timetable, and then succeeded. Our communication skills were also exemplified by the e-mails we used to express issues, ask for clarification, witch all lead to us understanding issues and solving them.

Our meetings, task boards, e-mails, and user stories are examples of some of the tools we used to ensure good/open communication, updated on progress and issues, updated user stories as needed, and test cases as well. Our team collaboration, constantly trying to improve, and transparency helped our team work together, grow, and achieve what our stakeholders wanted and needed. These tools and principles were used in our meetings and work to keep us on track and produce a product that met our stakeholders’ requirements, including those they added mid-sprint.

The pros of the agile method include its adaptability, flexibility, communication within the team, communication with stakeholders and end users, as well as how we are team oriented. The task boards we used from the agile method were beneficial as well. The meetings were one thing that can be seen as both a pro and/or a con. They helped keep everyone updated on progress, issues, concerns, and changes to the project. The way they are seen as a con is over the course of a sprint, they can use quite a bit of time that can be used refining the project and ensuring it is done on time. This time could also have been used to make the adjustments requested by the stakeholders. The only two approaches to coding as a team that I am aware of currently are agile and waterfall. Both approaches work, have their own pros, and their own cons. Waterfall is the older method of the two and in my limited opinion the least efficient method. Agile is newer and takes advantage of advancements in our understanding of teamwork, methods, and so on. Our team would not have been able to achieve the stakeholders requested changes mid sprint if we were using waterfall, but with the agile method’s flexibility we did.