Drina Baptiste

CS 250

Professor Ulucay

Final Project

Working for Chada Tech has been an insightful experience. I was able to take on many roles and be able to perform well in each. I was a Scrum Master, Product Owner, Tester, and lead developer. As the Scrum Master for the SNHU Travel project, my role was to ensure the smooth execution of the development process, keeping the team aligned with project goals and the client’s evolving needs. The Scrum-Agile approach was well-suited to this project, allowing us to adapt to new requirements while maintaining constant communication among team members. This flexibility was critical in ensuring that we could deliver a minimum viable product (MVP) aligned with the client’s vision.

The various roles within the Scrum-Agile team played a significant part in the success of the SNHU Travel project. As Scrum Master, I facilitated key Scrum events like sprint planning, daily stand-ups, and retrospectives, which provided the team with the structure they needed to stay organized and aligned. One notable example was when the client shifted focus to detox and wellness travel late in the project. I organized a sprint planning session to re-prioritize the backlog and ensure that all team members were on the same page regarding the new requirements. This helped maintain momentum while adjusting to the client’s new direction.

I was then the Product Owner, which was equally critical in ensuring project success. I was responsible for maintaining communication with stakeholders. As Product Owner my role was to clarify user stories and ensuring that the development team worked on features that matched user needs. When the project focus shifted, the Product Owner updated the product backlog to reflect the client’s new priorities and provided the development team with clear acceptance criteria. This close collaboration with the development team ensured that we could meet the new requirements while staying on track with the project’s overall goals.

I also took on the role of being a tester. Tester’s role was crucial because ensuring I had to ensure that the product met quality standards. I developed test cases based on the user stories and acceptance criteria provided by the Product Owner. Effective communication between the Tester, Product Owner, and myself ensured that any changes in the project direction were reflected in the testing process.

As the lead developer, my responsibility was to implement the features and ensure they met the expectations set forth in the user stories. Collaborating with the Product Owner and Tester allowed me to ensure that development aligned with the project’s evolving focus. For instance, when we needed to implement new filters for wellness travel options, I worked closely with the Product Owner to clarify the scope of the features and with the Tester to ensure that the test cases aligned with the new functionality. This close collaboration between roles allowed us to adapt to changes while maintaining the quality of the product.

The Scrum-Agile approach was particularly effective in bringing user stories to completion. By breaking down user stories into smaller, manageable tasks, the development team could focus on delivering specific features within each sprint. For example, user stories related to filtering destinations based on price or travel type were broken down into actionable tasks, which helped ensure that each part of the functionality was developed and tested efficiently.

One of the key strengths of Scrum-Agile is its ability to handle interruptions and changing requirements. In the case of the SNHU Travel project, the client’s shift to prioritize wellness travel was a major change that could have disrupted the project. However, Agile’s flexibility allowed the team to adapt quickly. We revised the backlog during sprint planning and worked closely with the Product Owner to clarify the new priorities. If we had been in a waterfall approach, we would have had to start from scratch or wait for the original completion.

Effective communication was essential to the success of this project. Daily stand-up meetings provided a platform for team members to share their progress and address any roadblocks they encountered. These meetings fostered transparency and kept the team aligned on daily tasks. Email communication was also key, particularly when clarifications were needed on user stories or project shifts. For instance, I sent an email to the Product Owner and Tester when the project focus shifted to wellness travel, asking for clarification on which features to prioritize and how to update the acceptance criteria. This ensured that all team members had the information they needed to proceed efficiently.

The organizational tools we used also contributed to the project’s success. JIRA, the Agile project management platform, allowed us to track tasks, assign work, and monitor progress throughout each sprint. This tool was particularly useful for managing the backlog and ensuring that tasks were completed in a timely manner. Kanban boards provided real-time updates on the status of tasks, helping the team stay organized and identify any bottlenecks early.

The Scrum-Agile approach had several pros and cons throughout the project. One of the key benefits was its flexibility, which allowed the team to adapt to the client’s changing requirements, such as the shift to wellness travel. The iterative nature of Agile also encouraged continuous feedback, enabling the team to refine processes and improve productivity with each sprint. However, there were challenges, particularly when user stories lacked clear acceptance criteria. This sometimes led to delays in testing, as additional clarification was needed from the Product Owner. Despite these challenges, the benefits of Agile outweighed the drawbacks, and the project’s ability to pivot quickly proved to be a major advantage.

In conclusion, the Scrum-Agile methodology was the best approach for the SNHU Travel project, given the evolving nature of the client’s requirements. The flexibility of Agile allowed the team to adapt quickly, while the clear communication practices and role-based collaboration ensured that all members stayed aligned with the project goals. While there were challenges related to the clarity of some user stories, the nature of Agile enabled the team to overcome these issues and deliver a product that met the client’s expectations. The Scrum-Agile approach fostered a culture of continuous improvement and collaboration, making it the right choice for the SNHU Travel project.