Sprint Review and Retrospective

ChadaTech - SNHU Travel Project

**Overview:**

During this sprint, the new Scrum-agile Team completed several user stories that advanced the completion of the product backlog. Specifically, we implemented various methods for suggesting travel opportunities to customers of the SNHU website. This includes ways for SNHU travel to set up the deals that will be displayed, how SNHU Travel can configure deals for customer suggestions through the tag system, and a way for customers to modify what types of travel is suggested to them.

**How each role contributed to the success of the SNHU Travel Project this sprint:**

* **Scrum Master:** During the sprint, a daily Scrum call occurred every day at 9:00 AM for fifteen minutes, hosted by the Scrum Master. During these discussions, each member of the team discussed what they are working on, what they completed the day before, and what they are currently struggling with. The Scrum Master facilitated this call, ensured it stayed on track, and ensured any meetings that were needed as a follow-up discussion were promptly set up.
* **Product Owner:** The Product Owner performed a number of tasks during the previous sprint. Before the sprint began, the PO discussed features with SNHU Travel, and what they would like to see on the website. The PO then added the items to the backlog, wrote user stories to clearly share the functionality that SNHU Travel would like to see, and prioritized everything on MoSCoW scale. The PO then brought this to the sprint planning, where the sprint was set up to prepare for these features and their implementation/testing. The PO also conveyed any changes to the intended functionality as time went on. During this sprint, we had one change that was brought to the development team via the PO.
* **Developer:** During this two week sprint, the Developer provided time estimates for each user story using their experience in web development as a base. The estimated development time for the features was around five work-days, which ended up being close to seven due to the changes brought forth mid-sprint by SNHU Travel via the PO. Because the project was written in a modular way, the adjustment did not require a full re-code of the project to accommodate the changes.
* **Tester:** During this sprint, the Tester worked closely with the Developer and the PO to ensure that the intended functionality was indeed in place via test cases, and to communicate any failed test cases for technical correction to the developer.

**How the Scrum-agile approach helped each of the user stories come to completion:**

By following the Scrum-agile approach, the team was able to use the product backlog refinement and daily scrum meetings to stay in sync as the product was rapidly developed. The daily scrum specifically helped when a team member was struggling with something, and they needed to bring it to the entire group. While this was not the only time they reached out for help, it presented ample opportunities to get the help that was needed. By overcoming obstacles as a team and staying in sync, user stories could be completed in a more efficient manner, and would not get hung-up in a specific step of the process. An example of this was when the tags were being implemented by the developer, and there was a technical hurdle that they were struggling to see a way around. The developer brought this up in the daily scrum, and the tester had some experience from a former job that applied to this specific hurdle. The SM set up a meeting between the Developer and Tester and they were able to complete the tags that afternoon.

**How the Scrum-agile approach supported project completion when the project was interrupted and changed direction:**

During the two-week sprint, SNHU Travel decided that they would like to modify the way that they create and modify travel deals. Previously, it was discussed that they would like to follow a similar format to another system they used in the past, which involved uploading an excel file to the database with all of the pricing, tags, descriptions, etc. This change, however, was a request to make an interface where individual ads could be modified on an admin account. Because admin accounts were set up in a previous sprint, admin pages were already implemented into the project. The PO was able to confirm with the developer that the change could be accomplished in the sprint, and the PO modified the user stories in the backlog. The tester was then able to write some test cases, and the developer got to work on the functionality. By Tuesday of the following week, still in the sprint, a new page was set up for the admins of SNHU Travel to interface with the ads from the website. By Wednesday it was tested and reviewed by the PO and ready to be given to SNHU Travel upon completion of the sprint.

**Demonstrate your ability to communicate effectively with your team by providing samples of your communication:**

The following is a sample of dialogue from one of our recent daily scrums (SM = Scrum Master):

* **SM:** Thank you all for joining the daily scrum. As per normal, we will start with an update from development.
* **Developer:** Good morning everyone. Yesterday, I was able to finish the layout of the suggestions page, as well as the user’s profile page where they can adjust their tags. Today I will be working on implementing the tags that will be used by the ads and the customization page, and more importantly the queries that will populate the suggestions page based on these tags. The challenge that I foresee myself running into will be writing a query script for the database that can prioritize the user’s selected tags, excluding their blacklisted tags, AND including posts that share similar tasks.
* **Tester:** I actually may be able to assist you with that once we are finished with the Scrum. I have some scripts I have written in the past that could be modified to do exactly what you need, so we don’t need to reinvent the wheel.
* **Developer:** That sounds great, thank you! That would likely save me an entire afternoon of work.
* **SM:** Thank you both. I have looked at your calendars, and it looks like you are both free at noon. I will set up a sidebar for one hour so you two can review the scripts. Now we’ll move onto Testing…

**Organizational tools and Scrum-agile principles that helped your team be successful:**

One tool that was used as a part of the team’s organization was the implementation of an azure board. This tool allowed us to organize the current workload into topics, and who was responsible for those topics. We also had a status for the tags, so we knew if they were in the backlog, in progress, or complete. While the team originally wanted to do the whiteboard with sticky notes organization method, this tool proved to be a more powerful alternative that could be accessed anywhere.

As for a method that was used, the Product Owner and developer implemented the MoSCoW principle for the prioritization process. This allowed the product owner to discuss what the sprint must have, should have, could have, and won’t have with SNHU Travel. They were able to list their priorities for each feature using this method, and the developer could then use that to easily understand what must be in the sprint, should be in the sprint, could be if there is time, and what should not be in the sprint.

**Effectiveness of the Scrum-agile approach for the SNHU Travel project:**

Overall, the SNHU Travel project has been a massive success due to the newly adopted Scrum-agile approach. The method provided several benefits over the traditional waterfall method, namely the ability to adapt the project to the customer’s needs even while the project is underway. Because the project is not hammered into a long, specific development method, the project can be truly built from the ground up one brick at a time, rather than trying to plan where each brick will be going before we start. The only con that was experienced in the project is the amount of time that was spent in extra meetings. While these meetings were costly from a time-perspective, they did an incredible job at keeping the team organized, on track, and in sync.Overall, the Scrum-agile approach gave the team the ability to flexibly to move from task to task, complete tasks efficiently, and adapt when a change is requested based on feedback from SNHU Travel, or decision changes.