Module 7 Sprint Review and Retrospective

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* **Applying Roles**: Demonstrate how the various roles on your Scrum-Agile Team specifically contributed to the success of a project. Use specific examples from your experiences.

In my role as the **Product owner,** I gained a better understanding of how and why communication is an important cog in scrum teams. Playing the middleman and enabling a line of communication with the client/stakeholders and the team that is assembling their product is an ideal arrangement that leaves little room error or misunderstandings. By utilizing the information that was provided to me by the client I created a user story and acceptance criteria that helped mold a guideline that the developers could create base code from.

In my role as **Scrum Master** it was apparent that it was in mine and the team’s best interest to enforce cohesive and structured sprint planning sessions of at least 3 hours. Daily scrums would also be a commonality and take place every morning before the work day and after to give a check in on the progress and make tweaks where they are needed. Backlog refinement is a collaborative process that is reviewed and discussed amongst the scrum team once a week at the end of the week. Sprint Reviews and Retrospectives helped the team grow as individuals and as a team by reflecting on the actions taken during the project and where we could’ve been more efficient and what we could’ve done better. Backlog refinement helped minimize the number of resources we put in by revising the test cases to be more concise and less bloated.

In my role as a **Developer,** I realized that it’s important to ask for clarity and not to shy away from asking specifics on every detail in the project because the end product will show how much care and attention you showed it. Being fearless and my team allowing me to make mistakes and learn from them while supporting me and providing feedback is key in making scrum teams and agile work accordingly. An example from the SNHU travel project would be when I sent an email to the product owner asking for clarification about what specific phrase should be shown when an invalid search option was selected.

* **Completing User Stories**: Describe how a Scrum-Agile approach to the software development life cycle (SDLC) helped user stories come to completion. Use specific examples from your experiences.

By utilizing the sprint planning agile method everyone within the team had the chance to collaborate with each other and come to agreements on the specifics of how the project should be designed and constructed from the ground up. By having every important member of the team present and in one place face to face it is more likely that developers can get their questions about the details of the project to the product owner. By successfully nurturing this communication you enable the product owner to ask the client effective questions about the end product and get useful feedback that directly helps the project progress by further developing the user story. An example of this in the email from the tester Christy when she asks for more clarification on the three User stories and asks specific questions to get the targeted answers she needed.

* **Handling Interruptions**: Describe how a Scrum-Agile approach supported project completion when the project was interrupted and changed direction. Use specific examples from your experiences.

Scrum-agile methods seemingly have built in reactionary measures to any type of resistance or stoppages that agile is faced with. An example of this is when the Java software went down for maintenance in the late stages of the development close to the deadline. The agile approach to this adversity was already built in as the daily stand up at the end of the day kept everyone updated and on the same page. The result was that arrangements were made to get the developer extra manpower to help him meet the deadline after maintenance was over.

* **Communication**: Demonstrate your ability to communicate effectively with your team by providing samples of your communication. Explain why your examples were effective in their context and how they encouraged collaboration among team members.

In my role as developer I ran into an issue that needed additional information from the product owner and the tester the following email was written to get their assistance filling this gap in information:

Dear Product owner and Tester,

I hope your progress and experience with the project is going smoothly. Today I was looking into the proposed plan, and I realized I was missing some integral information that would help me deliver the best product possible. With your communication on the following data absences, I think I could help deliver the best vision for the client.

Product Owner:

I would appreciate extra clarification on exactly what you/the client would want to be shown to the end user when a invalid input is entered into the search bar. A specific phrase such as “That result cannot be found” would be great and benefit my work immensely.

Tester:

What would you propose is the most common configuration error that you find when testing sites with search functions like the one we are working on. This insight will be a Godsend in stopping any bugs before they even start compiling and save me a lot of trial and error in my work.

If I could get a thorough response from both of you before the week is over I would greatly appreciate it. If there is anything you would like from me in return I would be happy to accommodate your needs.

Sincerely,

Elijah Dames (Developer)

I believe this message was communicated efficiently and properly by asking my fellow team members for precise information without being vague or demanding but inviting collaboration in a friendly manner.

* **Organizational Tools**: Evaluate the organizational tools and Scrum-Agile principles that helped your team be successful. Reference the Scrum events in relation to the effectiveness of the tools.

Utilizing JIRA was incredibly useful and did a excellent job in creating a progress board that kept all the members in check and focused on the task/s at hand. A place where everyone can see each other’s progress also boosts productivity by passively holding members accountable for their tasks.

JIRA’s role in **sprint planning** is significant by providing estimation of the effort levels needed for each task which enables a comfortable timetable for completion of tasks can be made.

JIRA giving a visual representation of each task’s progress significantly puts the team at a advantage by simplifying daily **scrum meetings** making it easier to find the issues at hand and indicating where progress should be made.

JIRA has advanced tools such as charts that can make sprint review more visually friendly and easily pull up stats that show the positives and negatives or progression/regression.

JIRA’s ability to give a reflection via stats on how each member was productive to the project is integral and should be used effectively in the **sprint retrospective**.

* **Evaluating Agile Process**: Assess the effectiveness of the Scrum-Agile approach for a specific project. Address each of the following:  
  + Describe the pros and cons that the Scrum-Agile approach presented during the SNHU Travel project.

**Pros:**

-Team was always connected and communicative about any changes that were made to the project,

-Collaboration was seamless.

-Flexibility to adapt to situations changing at a moment’s notice.

-Provides infinite growth via retrospectives

**Cons**:

-Hard for new members to get adjusted initially

-Feedback depends on stakeholders/client’s response speed/detail.

* + Determine whether or not a Scrum-Agile approach was the best approach for the SNHU Travel development project.

I truly believe that the Scrum-Agile approach is the best approach for not only this project but it’s the most efficient approach to 70%+ of projects overall depending on the details. Having the ability to grow your team not only as a collective but to train their skills without them being handicapped by being punished for making mistakes. The value of having organized sprint planning sessions and daily scrum meetings is invaluable in always keeping everyone on the team on the same page throughout the project. Sprint Retrospectives also output a massive amount of value by evaluating members’ actions during the sprint and helping them grow exponentially from them without fear of non-constructive criticism.

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