**Sprint Review and Retrospective: SNHU Travel Application Development**

Our team’s success with the SNHU Travel application really came from everyone understanding and embracing their role in the Scrum team. As the Scrum Master, I focused on keeping the team on track and helping remove any blockers. The Product Owner was essential in keeping the product backlog clear and prioritized, so we always knew what was most important to work on. The development team brought a wide range of skills, from coding to testing, and took ownership of delivering the work. For example, during sprint planning, the Product Owner clearly explained the user stories, which helped the developers break the work into manageable pieces and give accurate time estimates. Having everyone focused on their part made our teamwork smooth and productive.

Using Scrum helped us break down the project into smaller, focused pieces through user stories. This made it easier to deliver valuable features step by step and adjust based on feedback. One sprint, for example, focused on the booking system. Regular reviews allowed us to get early feedback and make changes quickly before moving on. This approach helped us avoid major rework and kept the product aligned with what the client actually needed. It was clear that having small goals made the overall project less overwhelming and much more manageable.

During development, the client asked us to add a new feature to integrate a third-party payment system. This change could have caused delays, but Scrum’s flexibility helped us adjust without losing momentum. In the next sprint planning meeting, we updated the backlog to include the new feature and re-prioritized tasks. I made sure everyone understood the change and that the team felt supported to manage the extra work. Because we were working in short cycles, it was easier to absorb the change and keep moving forward. This kind of flexibility would have been much harder to handle using the old waterfall method, where changes are costly and slow to incorporate.

Good communication was one of the biggest reasons our team worked so well together. Daily stand-up meetings were a quick way for everyone to share updates and raise any issues. For instance, when a developer encountered a problem with the API, they brought it up right away during the daily meeting, and we were able to solve it before it became a bigger roadblock. We also used shared online boards and documents so team members could keep track of progress and stay connected even if they were not available for live meetings. Clear and open communication created a sense of trust and encouraged the team to collaborate naturally.

Using tools like JIRA made organizing and tracking our work much easier. We created boards that showed all the user stories and tasks, and we could quickly see what was done and what still needed attention. These visual tools helped the team balance workloads and spot any delays early on. Our Scrum events, such as sprint planning, daily stand-ups, reviews, and retrospectives, worked hand in hand with these tools to keep everything running smoothly. During retrospectives, the data from JIRA helped us identify where we could improve our process, making each sprint better than the last.

Scrum brought many benefits to the SNHU Travel project. Delivering work in smaller increments helped keep stakeholders engaged and allowed for frequent adjustments. The focus on teamwork and adaptability kept us from getting stuck when requirements changed. On the downside, the team had to get used to new rituals and tools, which took some time and patience. We also had to watch out for the project scope growing too much without clear control. Overall, though, Scrum was the best fit for this project because of its flexibility and focus on collaboration. Compared to the waterfall approach, which is more rigid and linear, Scrum gave us the freedom to respond to change quickly and deliver value throughout the process.

Looking back, adopting Scrum for the SNHU Travel application helped our team work more effectively and produce better results. Clear roles, focused user stories, the ability to handle changes, and strong communication all contributed to our success. The combination of Scrum principles and helpful tools like JIRA made it easier to stay organized and improve continuously. While learning a new approach came with challenges, the positive outcomes showed that Scrum is a great way to manage complex projects where flexibility and teamwork matter most. These lessons will be valuable as ChadaTech considers moving all teams to Agile.

**References**

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