CS 250 Final Project

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**Sprint Review and Retrospective: Evaluating the Scrum-Agile Methodology for the SNHU Travel Project**

The transition from the traditional waterfall development model to Scrum-Agile for the SNHU Travel platform project brought numerous benefits to our team, along with a few challenges. From the outset, it was evident that the Scrum-Agile methodology focused on collaboration, flexibility, and communication, which directly aligned with the needs of the project. One of the primary roles that contributed to the success of this transition was that of the Product Owner. The Product Owner acted as the liaison between the development team and the end users, ensuring that user stories were clear, focused on customer value, and aligned with the business objectives.

By keeping the product backlog organized and prioritizing features based on real-time feedback, the Product Owner ensured that the most important tasks were always at the top of the list, enabling the development team to work on the most impactful features first. This was a significant departure from the waterfall approach, where tasks were predetermined and could not easily be adjusted based on user feedback or changing business needs. With Scrum, however, the ability to adapt based on evolving requirements helped us remain focused on delivering features that directly met user expectations, increasing the likelihood of customer satisfaction.

As for the Scrum Master’s role, it was crucial in guiding the team through the sprint process and ensuring that communication flowed smoothly. The Scrum Master worked diligently to facilitate the daily stand-up meetings, during which the team shared their progress, addressed any roadblocks, and made adjustments to stay on track. These meetings allowed us to discuss progress without overloading anyone and provided a platform for each team member to voice concerns and collaborate on solutions. One of the greatest advantages of these stand-up meetings was their ability to foster team cohesion and ensure that we all worked toward the same goal. The Scrum Master also helped remove obstacles, whether that meant providing additional resources, clarifying user stories, or addressing any interpersonal conflicts. By focusing on removing blockers and ensuring that the team stayed aligned, the Scrum Master played an integral role in helping us stay productive and focused. This constant communication and collaborative approach were essential for keeping the project on track.

From the developer’s perspective, the Scrum-Agile approach was a significant improvement over the waterfall model, which tended to isolate developers and made it difficult to adjust course once work began. In Scrum, tasks were broken down into smaller, more manageable chunks, which meant that we could focus on delivering working software in short bursts. Each sprint allowed the team to deliver a subset of features that could be tested and evaluated by the Product Owner and the end users. This frequent delivery of working features made it easier to address feedback quickly, improving the product with every iteration. As a developer, I appreciated the opportunity to receive continuous feedback, which made it easier to make adjustments and corrections during the development process. For example, after delivering the first few features to the Product Owner, we received valuable feedback about the user interface, which allowed us to make refinements before we continued working on the next set of features. This continuous loop of feedback and improvement is one of the most powerful aspects of Scrum-Agile, as it prevents the project from veering too far off course, making adjustments as we go.

Another significant advantage of the Scrum-Agile approach was the ability to handle interruptions and changing requirements with ease. During the project, we encountered unforeseen changes in the client’s priorities, which would have posed significant challenges under the waterfall model, where any change to the project scope would have led to delays, increased costs, and a lack of flexibility. However, with Scrum-Agile, we were able to adjust quickly by simply adjusting the product backlog, reprioritizing tasks, and communicating the necessary changes with the team. One example of this occurred when the client requested a last-minute change to the user interface, asking for new filters to be added. Since we were in the middle of a sprint, we were able to adjust our priorities and add the new feature without significantly affecting our timeline or the overall project. This flexibility and quick adaptation helped us stay on track and continue delivering a product that met the client’s needs, even when their requirements shifted unexpectedly.

Effective communication within the Scrum-Agile team was essential for our success. As a team, we communicated regularly, not just during the daily stand-ups, but also through emails, direct messages, and shared documentation. One example of this was when we had to clarify a user story that seemed to be unclear. After the daily stand-up, the developer in charge of that story sent an email to the Product Owner asking for more details and clarification. This not only helped resolve the confusion quickly but also demonstrated the importance of transparency and ensuring that all members of the team were on the same page. Communication is key in Scrum-Agile, and it’s essential that the team can work cohesively toward the same goal. Without effective communication, it would have been difficult to keep the project on track, especially when things changed unexpectedly.

In terms of organizational tools, Scrum-Agile provided us with many tools to track our progress and maintain transparency within the team. One of the most useful tools was the sprint board, which allowed us to visually track our progress throughout each sprint. The board provided an at-a-glance view of which tasks were still to be done, which were in progress, and which were completed. This helped ensure that the team stayed aligned and that everyone knew exactly what they were responsible for. Additionally, tools like Jira allowed us to manage the product backlog and track user stories. This organizational tool provided a central location for managing tasks, assigning priorities, and tracking progress throughout the sprint cycle. These tools, combined with Scrum-Agile’s iterative nature, ensured that we could stay on top of our tasks and focus on completing them in a timely and efficient manner.

Finally, evaluating the effectiveness of the Scrum-Agile approach for the SNHU Travel project, I believe it was the best methodology to use. The Scrum-Agile framework allowed us to remain adaptable, communicate effectively, and continuously improve our product based on real-time feedback. The flexibility of Scrum-Agile, especially when faced with changing requirements, helped us navigate interruptions and deliver high-quality features quickly. While the waterfall approach could have worked, it would have been far less effective in accommodating the fast pace of change and iterative feedback that was required for this project. The agile process helped us stay focused on delivering what the client wanted, making necessary adjustments along the way, and ultimately producing a better end product.

In conclusion, the Scrum-Agile methodology provided our team with the tools, flexibility, and collaboration needed to succeed on the SNHU Travel platform project. The ability to break tasks into smaller user stories, work iteratively, and receive continuous feedback from the Product Owner and end users was invaluable in meeting the client’s needs and delivering a high-quality product. The agile approach also helped us remain adaptable and effective when the project scope changed, ensuring that we stayed on track even when challenges arose. Communication practices, such as daily stand-ups and the use of organizational tools like Jira and the sprint board, kept the team aligned and helped ensure that everyone was on the same page. Overall, Scrum-Agile was an excellent choice for this project and provided the flexibility and efficiency we needed to succeed.