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Sprint Review and Retrospective

At the heart of Scrum, is a sprint. These regular sprints are littered throughout the development process. Each new sprint begins with the completion of the previous sprint. It is in this paper, that I will analyze how the various roles of our Scrum-agile Team contributed to the success of the SNHU Travel Project. Specifically, as it pertains to the sprint. I then will describe how the Scrum-agile approach supported project completion in the preliminary specification. I will then analyze how the Scrum-agile approach supported project completion when the project was interrupted, and the direction changed. This will lead to an in-depth analysis of the effectiveness of the Scrum-agile approach and what I believe helped our team be successful.

As the Scrum Master, I contributed to the success of the SNHU Travel project by ensuring the entire team supported the selected Scrum process and understood the value of each event. I helped the team learn and apply scrum and the related agile practices to best benefit the team. I made myself constantly available to the team. Especially when it came to helping them remove any impediments, or roadblocks obstructing them from doing their work. The Product Owner contributed to the success of the SNHU Travel project by maximizing the return the business gets on this investment (ROI). Our product owner did this by directing the team toward the most valuable work and diverted the team from less valuable work. She also communicated the user needs and preferences in initial interviews, or user meetings, to effectively determine the order or priority of items in the team’s backlog. This was useful when engaging with users, or stakeholders, by ensuring that the team constructed the right thing, and not waste time building the wrong thing.

The Development Team contributed to the success of the SNHU Travel project by incrementally increasing the value of the product. They not only completed the user stories but were also responsible for testing the product frequently through release iterations to minimize the risk of failure. This was important as it ensured that each increment was additive to all previous increments. Ensuring all increments worked together successfully. As the project underwent requirement changes throughout the agile process, the development team had to be highly collaborative as well as self-organizing. This means that the team members had total authority over how the work got ‘done.’

The Scrum-agile approach to the SDLC helped each of the user stories come to completion by utilizing the iterative approach. Each build was incremental in terms of features. The final build held all the features required by the customer. This project had our team adding features such as sorting vacation packages. An example of which would be by type, or price. The Scrum-agile approach also supported project completion when the project was interrupted and changed direction. This is because it allowed for a quick response to the change in requirements, as well as continuous development.

Throughout this project my team and I continued to communicate effectively. A few samples of our communication are listed below:

To: Brian

Subject: RE: Requirement Change – Permission to freeze?

Yes, of course. What a wonderful idea!

Regards,

Christy

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To: Christy

Subject: Requirement Change – Permission to freeze?

Dear Christy,

Due to the requirement changes, do we (The Development Team) have permission to freeze the current iteration? If this is done, then changes to this current requirement could instead be treated as just another new requirement.

Thank you and have a good evening!

Regards,

Brian

To: Brian

Subject: RE: Database Columns - Clarification

SNHU Travel needs a full legal name, address, phone number, and billing information.

Regards,

Christy

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To: Christy

Subject: Database Columns - Clarification

Dear Christy,

I have reviewed your user stories and I am currently developing test cases for the different features. Specifically, to determine whether the current product passes or fails. However, I require a bit more detail so that I can use more specific metrics to define the test cases. Can you answer the following question for me?

* What personal information does SNHU Travel need from its’ customers to book a vacation package?

Thank you and have a good evening!

These examples were effective in their context by offering clarification to the development team such that they were able to effectively continue their work.

The team alone decided which tools and techniques to use as well as which team members would work on which tasks. The organizational tool, and Scrum-agile principles, that I believe best helped our team were Azure Boards. This is because it was an effective way to track accountability. It offered us an effective way to plan and track our work.

A few prominent practices, and aspects, of agile of which were implement by our team were as follows:

* “Configure our team to support rollup of development user stories to project management features.
* Define and work in a sprint cadence.
* Use User Stories and Features to track deliverables.
* Use our team's Feature and Product backlogs to create our product plan.
* Use tags to support queries and filtering.
* Forecast our product plan to gain insight into when deliverables can ship, set milestones.
* Manage dependencies by linking work items.
* Assign work to sprints.
* Review progress and deliverables using the Features backlog, rollup, and delivery plans.
* Engage with process improvement during sprint planning and retrospectives (Azure Boards, 2020).

In conclusion, I believe that our team was successful because of the effectiveness of the Scrum-agile approach for the SNHU Travel project. It is because of the Scrum-agile approach, that we were able to have a very realistic approach to software development. The Scrum-agile approach promoted teamwork and cross training. As well as the ability to effectively pivot, given the last-minute requirement change. It is because of this that our team was able to rapidly develop and demolish functionality. We were not only able to deliver early partial working solutions, but it allowed for the little to no planning for the requirement change encountered later in the development process. While the Scrum-agile approach did have more risk of sustainability, maintainability, and extensibility. I do believe that it was the best approach for the SNHU Travel development project.

References

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