**Sprint Review and Retrospective**

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**Introduction**

The transition from a traditional waterfall model to an Agile methodology using the Scrum framework provided valuable lessons about how software development processes can adapt to meet dynamic needs. The SNHU Travel project allowed our team to explore the roles within a Scrum-Agile team, work on completing user stories, and manage interruptions effectively. As someone new to Agile, this project was a chance to learn by doing and understand how the framework functions in practice. This retrospective reflects on how Agile practices shaped the project, focusing on roles, communication, tools, and the overall effectiveness of the Scrum-Agile approach.

**Applying Roles**

Each Scrum role contributed significantly to the success of the project. The Product Owner prioritized the backlog, ensuring the team focused on delivering the most valuable features. For instance, during the shift to wellness travel, the Product Owner communicated the changes and adjusted priorities effectively. The Scrum Master facilitated team communication and maintained focus by organizing daily stand-ups and retrospectives. As a Developer, my role involved coding features, responding to feedback, and ensuring the user stories met the requirements. I didn’t have much experience in this role before, so it was interesting to see how my work fit into the larger process. Finally, the Tester worked closely with the team to identify bugs early and validate that the completed stories met acceptance criteria. This collaboration across roles allowed the team to function cohesively and efficiently.

**Completing User Stories**

The Scrum-Agile approach provided a framework that helped user stories progress smoothly through the software development life cycle (SDLC). For example, daily stand-ups helped the team stay informed about progress and potential challenges. During the sprint focusing on integrating the booking tool, collaboration ensured we could deliver a functional feature within the sprint timeline. Working in iterative cycles allowed the team to continuously refine and complete stories, demonstrating how Agile practices adapt to evolving requirements. As a novice, I appreciated how the small, manageable goals of each sprint helped break down what initially felt like an overwhelming project.

**Handling Interruptions**

One of the most significant aspects of this project was managing interruptions when priorities shifted. When the focus changed to wellness travel, the Scrum framework helped the team adapt without losing momentum. The Product Owner adjusted the backlog, and the team re-evaluated tasks during sprint planning. This flexibility ensured the team could redirect efforts toward the most critical deliverables while maintaining progress on other tasks. I’m still learning how to handle these kinds of changes, but I saw how Agile’s emphasis on adaptability turned what could have been a disruptive event into an opportunity to deliver a more relevant product.

**Communication**

Effective communication was a cornerstone of the team’s success. Daily stand-ups provided a structured platform for sharing progress and addressing blockers. For instance, discussing potential delays in integrating the booking tool helped identify solutions early. Retrospectives also encouraged open feedback, allowing the team to reflect on what worked well and where improvements were needed. These practices fostered a sense of accountability and collaboration, ensuring that everyone was aligned on project goals. For me, the open discussions during stand-ups and retrospectives made it easier to understand how my role contributed to the project’s overall success.

**Organizational Tools**

Organizational tools like JIRA played a key role in the project’s success. JIRA’s task boards provided a clear visualization of the backlog, current tasks, and completed work. This visibility helped the team prioritize effectively and stay focused on delivering value during each sprint. For example, tracking progress on the wellness travel features ensured the team met the revised goals. I’ve never worked with a tool like JIRA before, but it made it much easier to see how the project was progressing and understand what needed to be done next. These tools supported the principles of transparency and accountability, which are essential in an Agile environment.

**Evaluating Agile Process**

The Scrum-Agile approach presented both benefits and challenges during the SNHU Travel project. On the positive side, it allowed for flexibility, continuous improvement, and enhanced team collaboration. Iterative development ensured the team could respond to changes, such as the shift to wellness travel, without derailing the project. However, the steep learning curve for new team members and the challenge of maintaining momentum during interruptions highlighted areas for improvement. Overall, the Scrum-Agile approach was the best choice for this project, as it provided the structure and adaptability needed to deliver a high-quality product.

**Conclusion**

The SNHU Travel project demonstrated the value of transitioning to a Scrum-Agile framework. By leveraging defined roles, effective communication, and organizational tools, the team was able to deliver features efficiently while adapting to changing priorities. As someone still learning these practices, I found this approach to be a great way to build skills and understand the importance of collaboration, transparency, and flexibility in software development. These insights can guide future projects and inform decisions about adopting Agile practices across the organization.

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