Sprint Review and Retrospective

* **Demonstrate how the various roles on your Scrum-agile Team specifically contributed to the success of the SNHU Travel project**. Be sure to use specific examples from your experiences.

Product Owner – This role was particularly important because its main purpose is to add to the value and work of the product being developed and maintain close communication with the client with enough expertise to identify business values, that the product will reflect for the client. The Product Owner was key in developing backlog items that described accurately what the client expected. The user stories broke down into small chucks of the whole product, giving priority, so each item was worked on according to its importance towards the goal of the Sprint. Stakeholders had access to a team member who could recognize business values for each client request, analyzing the best way to implement them into the project with user stories. During the interview/user meetings, the Product Owner was able to capture the value of each user request and put it into user stories for the team to develop.

Scrum Master – This role was vital for the balance of interactions between those outside of the Scrum Team. In the servant-leader role, the Scrum Master facilitated both the developers as well as the Product Owner and acted as coordinator/organizer of all Scrum Events. The Scrum Master was involved in acquiring necessary tools and aided with organizing collaboration of resources outside of the team which gave the team confidence to focus on the tasks. The role also involved coaching the rest of the team to self-organize and collaborate, but very often was involved in assisting the Product Owner prioritize the work to add more value to the product. All Scrum Events were run by the Scrum Master who helped negotiate the amount and order of priority of items during Sprint Planning. In Daily Scrums, the Scrum Master observed and led the Scrum to be done dynamically and informatively by having team members answer 3 key questions:

What have I accomplished yesterday?

What will I accomplish today?

What is keeping me from accomplishing the goal today?

Backlog refinement was done with Product Owner to reflect changes in items. Lastly, Sprint Review and Retrospective are other events the Scrum Master is highly involved and running. The Scrum Master showed his value to the team during meetings with the client along with Product Owner by understanding the steps required to move the project forward after the client expressed the requirements.

Developer - The development team had the job of completing the tasks in each user story as well as communicating necessary items to the Product Owner and testers. The team followed the user stories items given by the Product Owner and coded necessary changes using templates to accomplish the requirements. The development team also requested necessary items from Product Owner and testers when SHNU Travel made the requirement changes to focus on Wellness/Detox destinations. An email was sent to address the need to re-prioritize the Product Backlog and for new test cases to be written for those new user stories.

Tester – This role developed test cases for every item in the backlog to test all features and requested additional information when clarity was needed for user stories. The tester analyzed the User Story Value Statement and Acceptance Criteria and wrote test cases that would reflect the expected results of a given input. This ensured that the product was fully tested, and requirements accomplished. Email was sent to Product Owner when user stories were lacking details that did not seem clear requesting further clarity on items. Communication with Product Owner was necessary to ensure no doubt was left about the functionality of each user story and its requirements.

* **Describe how a Scrum-agile approach to the SDLC helped each of the user stories come to completion**. Be sure to use specific examples from your experiences.

The Scrum-agile approach helped each story come to completion by applying processes characteristic of the method. Some of these processes included Backlog Refinement and Test Cases. During the development of the product the team was faced with a change to the original focus of the web page and to fit the changes into the development, the Backlog needed to be refined to include the focus on the wellness/detox trips that SNHU Travel wanted to incorporate in the project. The other Scrum-agile approach that helped was the test cases that were written for every step to complete the user stories. They were short, simple, and very direct towards testing without leaving room for steps that can be overlooked and untested. The Scrum-agile approach helps the increments be added into the project without the need to wait to the end to make sure these increments fully work.

* **Describe how a Scrum-agile approach supported project completion when the project was interrupted and changed direction**. Be sure to use specific examples from your experiences.

The Scrum-agile approach supported projection completion by dynamically adjusting to the changes without the need to wait for the end of the Sprint to make these adjustments. The Product Owner communicated the team as soon as the client requested changes, the Scrum Master spoke out for the team concerning date of delivery and then items were re-prioritize to maintain the same delivery date but with the changes reflecting on the project.

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

Here’s an example of communication with my team

To: Maxie

Subject: User Story Clarifications

Hey Maxie,

As I read through your user stories to develop test cases for each of the features of the product so far, I have found some parts lack details that may be valuable in writing clear test cases. I’d appreciate if you could take some time to answer some questions.

User story #2 and #4

What will the customized list of top 5 destinations and hot deals be searching for in the user profile?

Should the search include personal information or just the “Vacation Preferences” choices?

Where it says “Name of previous destination that matches list item with percentage of match to profile preferences.” does it include matching of personal name, city or country in user profile?

User story #3

How many other choices will be on the Vacation Preferences webpage?

Will these choices be taken into consideration when searching for top 5 destinations or hot deals based on profile preferences?

Won’t the only choice for cruises defeat the purpose of a travel website?

Thanks,

Victor

In this email I clearly state the questions in the user stories that lacked information so that the user stories reflected all the details needed to satisfy the User Story Value Statement. I also request that the Product Owner take some time to answer detailed specific questions that will clear up any shadow of doubt concerning the goal of the user stories. Both of which supports transparency and openness essential principles of agile in reference to communication.

* **Evaluate the organizational tools and Scrum-agile principles that helped your team be successful**. Be sure to reference the Scrum events in relation to the effectiveness of the tools.

The scrum-agile approach would be exceedingly difficult to execute if not for the organizational tools that serve as an information radiator for all the members of the team to be on the same page when it comes to the progress of the project. Tools like this are able to distribute information in a very efficient process where the benefits are seen across all Scrum events. Traditional stickies whiteboard have been used to accomplish some of the necessary tasks of planning and progress tracking, but present online tools like VersionOne and communication principles were the key for my team’s success.

Sprint Planning was accomplished by laying tasks in a virtual meeting room because all members worked remotely, and using such tool helped all members of the team share the same virtual board adding necessary tasks to themselves as well as other essential members of the team. During Daily Scrums members met virtually when a face-to-face approach wasn’t possible, but team members were always camera present, sharing the view of the virtual board and verbally answering questions related to their progress. Product Owner and Scrum Master met often to discuss Backlog Refinement and re-prioritizing tasks based on their time of completion since information was updated frequently by all team members. Throughout the Sprint this tool helped communication and collaboration when team members who needed help or struggled to meet deadlines for “done” were automatically flagged and could be needing assistance. Sprint Review was quickly accomplished due to the strong element of data collection across all teams allowing all involved to see what was accomplished during the Sprint and Restropective was enhanced after teams could see suggestions of AI related to practices and behaviors analyzed by this tool as well as the follow up input of the Scrum Master who continued to coach the teams in agile principles and practices.

* **Assess the effectiveness of the Scrum-agile approach for the SNHU Travel project**. Be sure to address each of the following:
  + Describe the pros and cons that the Scrum-agile approach presented during the project.

Pros:

- Adaptivity: Changes happened with ease and no deadline had to be changed since the product backlog of refined.

-Fast Improvement: Sprint Restropective helps all Scrum members reflect and improve upon last Sprint in order to be more effective in the next.

Cons:

-Fast Paced: The duration of a Sprint is short and sometimes unexpected can take more time for a story to be completed. Communication is key also or else lack of can cause more errors and delays.

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

Yes, because of the way it was able to adapt to the change of focus to wellness and detox. The communication between all members of the team as the change was heard and then planned with no need to call for special meetings, showed how the involvement of all members during Daily Standups and collaboration, made the difference in making it a successful sprint.