Sprint Review and Retrospective

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The SNHU Travel project was developed under a Scrum-Agile framework to create an application capable of responding to changing requirements, specifically a late pivot from general travel packages to detox and wellness travel. This retrospective will examine how each Scrum role supported the project, how the Scrum-Agile methodology guided the completion of user stories, and how the team adapted when the scope changed. Additionally, this review will discuss the importance of communication, the organizational tools used for success, and the overall effectiveness of the Scrum-Agile approach for this project.

Each role in the Scrum process contributed to the success of the SNHU Travel project by clearly dividing responsibilities and encouraging collaboration. The Scrum Master facilitated essential events such as Sprint Planning, Daily Scrums, Sprint Reviews, and Retrospectives. This individual also helped remove impediments and guided the team to adopt key Agile principles. The Product Owner served as the main liaison between the development team and stakeholders, collecting insights from actual users and prioritizing the backlog to match business value. When the focus of the project changed to emphasize detox and wellness travel, the Product Owner updated the backlog and clarified acceptance criteria.  
Developers were responsible for converting user stories into functional software. In this project, the developer role required regular communication with the Product Owner to confirm details such as naming conventions for new image resources and to incorporate emergent acceptance criteria when the project pivoted. The tester used these clarified acceptance criteria to confirm that delivered features matched the product vision, ensuring high quality through targeted test scenarios. Because each role was defined, the team could respond quickly to changing requirements without confusion.

A core benefit of using Scrum-Agile was how effectively it helped transform user stories into tangible increments of working software. The Product Owner created or refined user stories that captured the essential goals of stakeholders, adding acceptance criteria that tied back to real-world uses of the travel application. This approach aligned the developer and tester with the overall product vision. The test process, driven by user stories and acceptance criteria, reduced ambiguity about when a story was “done.” Frequent feedback loops and iterative sprints meant that incomplete or unclear stories were quickly refined or reprioritized, preventing major delays at the end of development.

When the SNHU Travel project pivoted toward detox and wellness travel, the Scrum-Agile approach allowed the team to respond with minimal disruption. Rather than viewing this pivot as a setback, the Product Owner updated the backlog to reflect the new features and branding needed, including relevant images and descriptions. Communication among roles ensured that development shifted smoothly toward wellness travel goals. The developer’s concise email to the Product Owner and tester, requesting details on naming conventions and acceptance criteria, showed how open dialogue speeds up adaptation. Because Scrum ceremonies, including Backlog Refinement and Sprint Planning, occur regularly, the team was able to integrate new tasks without halting progress.

Effective communication was at the heart of every project milestone. In Daily Scrum meetings, each team member shared updates on completed tasks, future plans, and any obstacles. This frequent, time-boxed format encouraged visibility and quick problem-solving. Direct messages, emails, and Agile project management tools also facilitated clear collaboration. For example, an email from the developer seeking clarification on file naming for the new detox and wellness theme reached both the Product Owner and the tester, ensuring all relevant parties stayed informed. Transparent communication helped the team address concerns before they escalated, avoiding rework or conflicting assumptions.

The SCRUM framework includes events such as Sprint Planning, Backlog Refinement, Sprint Review, and the Sprint Retrospective. These events kept the project organized and emphasized constant improvement. Agile project management tools such as Azure Boards or similar platforms provided an at-a-glance view of tasks, acceptance criteria, progress, and comments. Because each user story and bug could be tagged, assigned, and tracked, the team wasted little time wondering about the status of ongoing work. With regular refinement, the backlog remained aligned with the evolving wellness focus and any unexpected requirements.

The Scrum-Agile approach proved very effective in handling frequent changes and supporting open collaboration. Its incremental nature allowed the team to gather user feedback early, making the wellness travel pivot more manageable. This methodology had its drawbacks, including a steeper learning curve for team members new to Agile events or collaboration practices, but overall it enabled a quick response to changes and kept the project on track. Waterfall, by contrast, would have required more rigid planning upfront, making late changes more costly. In the SNHU Travel project, where frequent adjustments and stakeholder feedback were key, Scrum-Agile was almost certainly the more suitable choice.

By aligning roles to clear responsibilities, focusing on user stories, and incorporating essential Scrum ceremonies, the SNHU Travel team delivered consistent increments of value despite shifting project requirements. Communication channels, from Daily Scrums to concise emails, ensured that potential roadblocks were surfaced early. Organizational tools such as backlog boards further enhanced transparency and coordination. While Agile methodologies require each role to be active and engaged, this retrospective shows that the benefits, including flexibility and continuous feedback, outweigh the challenges. For the SNHU Travel project, the Scrum-Agile approach facilitated a successful pivot and delivered a product that met the new wellness-focused vision.

**References**  
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