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CS250

7-1 Final Project

Title: Navigating Agile Framework in SNHU Travel Project

In my CS-250 Software Development Lifecycle course, I dived into the intricate roles of a Scrum-Agile development team. During this exploration, I was able to experience ChadaTech's transition from the traditional waterfall methodology to the dynamic Agile framework. Amid this shift, I became an integral part of the SNHU Travel project team – an ambitious initiative focused on revamping SNHU Travel's website and tools to attract a wider clientele. Throughout the project, I was exposed to a rich tapestry of roles that are synonymous with a Scrum-Agile team. These roles include the product owner, Scrum Master, developers, and testers.

The product owner assumes a central role in ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the product backlog, its meticulous organization, and the incorporation of valuable client feedback to influence project decisions (Cobb, 2015, p. 35). In my capacity as the product owner, I took the responsibility of aligning the team's grasp of the project with the expectations of our stakeholders. Moreover, I played a pivotal role in translating stakeholders' desires into actionable priorities (Cobb, 2015, p. 63). This role materialized in the form of a comprehensive compilation of user stories, systematically prioritized to help shape the foundation of the product backlog, effectively serving as a roadmap to help guide the project workflow.

Conversely, the Scrum Master shoulders the task of steering the team through adherence to the Scrum framework. This involves emphasizing the importance of clear product backlog items, facilitating Scrum events, and providing assistance to both the team and the product owner (Cobb, 2015, p. 36). In my role as the Scrum Master, I orchestrated succinct 15-minute daily Scrum meetings, ensuring that the team maintained its focus and comprehension of the ongoing discussions (Cobb, 2015, p. 42). Within these sessions, the team deliberated on accomplishments from the preceding day, established goals for the current day, and identified potential obstacles in the future. Essentially, the mission of the Scrum Master is to impart a lucid understanding of Scrum and Agile principles to all team members.

The developers and testers constituted the core of our project team. Developers operate as a collaborative unit within the development team, jointly working towards the completion of iterative sprints, culminating in potentially releasable increments (Cobb, 2015, p. 38). This egalitarian environment fosters a sense of autonomy among developers, enabling them to approach the product backlog as equals regardless of their expertise (Cobb, 2015, p. 38). In my capacity as a developer, my primary responsibility was to help generate functional code subject to review and feedback from testers and the product owner. Furthermore, I proactively established a channel of communication via email with testers and the product owner, addressing queries stemming from the evolving requirements within the SNHU Travel project. This proactive dialogue aimed to eliminate any potential ambiguity and promote clarity for the team. Conversely, testers assume the pivotal responsibility of meticulously scrutinizing the product, identifying potential issues, and ensuring overall quality (Cobb, 2015, p. 80). As a tester, I

collaboratively worked with the team to formulate test cases, elucidating the underlying requirements of each backlog item. Upon receiving a segment of the project, my role entailed a rigorous assessment of its readiness for completion, addressing any imperfections. Throughout the course's duration, I wholeheartedly embraced the Scrum-Agile approach, breathing life into user stories (Cobb, 2015, p. 65). These user stories, structured as "As a <role>, I want <to do something> so that <benefit>" (Cobb, 2015, p. 65), encapsulated crystallized project requisites, effectively dismantling the project into manageable components. This practice honed my capacity to construct user stories meticulously, methodically incorporating elements of priority, core significance, and acceptance criteria. Aligned with Agile's adaptive philosophy (Cobb, 2015, p. 22), the SNHU Travel project remained open to change. What initially revolved around a "Top Five Destinations List" requirement underwent a transformative journey. Evolving from a straightforward scrollable list with embedded links, this requirement morphed into an interactive PowerPoint-style presentation facilitated by intuitive "next" and "previous" buttons. This transformative trajectory was made possible solely due to the pliable nature of the Scrum-Agile framework, which allowed for adjustments to test cases, user stories, clarifications, priorities, and the subsequent updating of the project plan (Cobb, 2015, p. 24). Effective communication emerged as the cornerstone of our Scrum-Agile team dynamics. My communication strategy encompassed both Scrum meetings and purposeful emails crafted for precision. For instance, when confronted with shifting requirements within the SNHU Travel project, I initiated an email dialogue with the product owner and tester, articulating my queries and scheduling a comprehensive discussion. This proactive approach ensured a well-prepared discourse, leaving no room for ambiguity.

Subject: Clarification on User Stories

Hi [Client's Name], I hope this email finds you well. As I work on developing the test cases for the user stories you provided, I have a few questions to ensure we align with your vision for the project. I am hoping you can assist with my below questions.

User Story ID 1: Personalized Settings

- Would you prefer to offer a top 10 option instead of 5 to provide users with more choices and flexibility? Could we even do a top 20 to allow for more variety?
- Regarding the price range, is the current range of \$500 and unlimited suitable, or would you like to adjust it to better meet user expectations? Are there any other factors you would like the users to be able to adjust?

User Story ID 2: Travel Preferences

- When users specify a price range for their preferences, should the website display all vacations priced lower than the maximum amount they input?
- Are there additional user interest questions we should include, such as adventure, relaxation, or climate preferences, to enhance the personalized experience?

User Story ID 3: Deals

- Is it a good idea to incorporate a popup displaying "HOT DEALS" when users first visit the website? Would you like the popup to display a different phrase?
- Should we prioritize the order of deals based on the user's history and preferences?

Please take your time to review these questions and provide your valuable input. Your feedback is crucial to ensure we create a product that perfectly aligns with your needs. Thank you for your ongoing support and collaboration. I look forward to continuing working on this project with you.

Best regards,

Joseph Marek

To facilitate efficient communication, our team harnessed organizational tools, epitomized by the online information radiator, JIRA. This tool facilitated seamless transparency through its "Scrum Board," cultivating uninterrupted communication among team members (Cobb, 2015, p. 139). Reflecting on the Scrum-Agile approach, I acknowledge its merits and demerits. One potential drawback is the challenge in accurately estimating project duration, owing to its change-friendly nature. While this adaptability can potentially extend the project timeline, thereby challenging adherence to strict deadlines, the advantages undoubtedly eclipse the disadvantages. Intense collaboration within the team nurtured robust feedback loops and ensured high-quality deliverables. The approach's innate flexibility seamlessly accommodated evolving requirements – a feat that would have been far-fetched under a more rigid methodology. The synergistic blend of feedback, communication, collaboration, and well-defined roles streamlined project completion, making the Scrum-Agile approach the unequivocal choice for this undertaking. While I recognize the applicability of diverse methodologies to various projects, for this particular scenario, effective client-team communication played a pivotal role in embracing changing requirements and steering the project toward delivering a solution that aligned with

stakeholder expectations. To conclude, the Scrum-Agile approach stands validated, with its advantages significantly outweighing its drawbacks within this context.

(Reference: Cobb, C. G. (2015). Leading Change in Your World: A Practical Handbook for the Future Leader. BookBaby.)