**CS250 Module Seven Final Project**

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CS250: Software Development Cycle

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**Applying Roles: Demonstrate how the various roles on your Scrum-Agile Team**

In a Scrum agile team each member plays crucial role that contributes to the success of the project, no one member is more important that the other and there’s a strong emphasis on collaboration (Cobb, 2015).

The Product owner prioritizes the backlog based on business and customer needs. Because he/she is in direct contact with stakeholders they have a good understanding of their needs and expectations, and this ensures the team is working on the most important features first. Additionally, the various user meeting assisted in writing clear user stories that served as a template for what to do and not to do.

Scrum Master facilitated the daily standups, sprint planning and retrospectives. I was also responsible for removing any obstacles that lower productivity. In addition to this I was also responsible for fostering collaboration and maintaining an overall positive environment. One way this was achieved was through leading by example, every daily standup I would start the meetings off by sharing what I did yesterday what I plan to do today and if there was and impediments. What this does is break the ice set the tone for open communication.

Development team is responsible for designing, coding and testing the product in increments that aligns with the sprint goals and requirements. They also are responsible for planning and estimating the lengths of the sprints. How they contributed to the success of the project was not only delivering a working product on time but when the requirements changed the development team ensured they got additional information to improve the test cases and how the new features should be implemented.

**Completing User Stories: Scrum-Agile approach helped complete user stories**

User stories help the development team deliver value to the user and ensure there’s no wasted effort (Cobb, 2015). The scrum agile approach that helped complete user stories is by following the format as a something I want to be able to do something so that something. This method ensured each user story is detailed and clearly defines a why and who it is intended for. In addition, the specific requirements for each where listed (acceptance criteria) the user stories were ordered by importance, and this was determined by the number of times a feature was requested.

**Handling Interruptions: Scrum-Agile approach supported direction change of project**

One of the strengthens of the agile approach is being flexible and easily adapts to change (Cobb, 2015). These changes or interruption can occur after a sprint review, user feedback after a sprint or if the requirements change. In our case the Product owner is very hands on and meets with the stakeholder regularly and he/she was informed that SNHU wanted to shift the focus from top five destinations overall to a top five destinations list that focused on detox/wellness. Even though the development team already finished implementing the original feature the product backlog was updated, and this feature was moved up on the priority list. Next the development team requested clarity on how the new features should be implemented, which ended up being changing the way the top destination list was displayed. Originally it was a list the new requirements required it to be updated to a slideshow. Then the test cases were updated and finally the features were implemented.

**Communication: Demonstrate your ability to communicate effectively with your team**

Effective communication is another key principle in the agile approach, it promotes collaboration, reduces misunderstandings and helps the team resolve issue faster. Throughout this project there was various ways the team demonstrated this. Below are two emails sent from the development team to the Product owner, both in reference to a requirement change. The emails are effective because they are polite and clearly state what is needed and why, it also encourages collaboration by requesting additional information from the product owner so all requirements are clear.

Hello Product Owner,

As we progress in developing the test cases for the SNHU Travel project, I’ve reviewed the user stories provided, and I believe additional information about the implementation of the features is needed. Specifically, I would like to request design specifications on how the lists of top destinations and deals are to be visually structured. Also, could you provide guidance on how the pricing filters and vacation type filters should be displayed in the user interface? Any specifications on the layout or functionality would be helpful.

Best Jermaine Wiggins

Hello Product owner and testers

During our last meeting a there was a new discovery, that detox and wellness vacations are going to be the next big travel sector. I had a few questions regarding how these changes should be implemented.

* Should the detox wellness vacation destinations be implemented on the top 5 destinations page?
* Should wellness/detox vacation destination be included in the user profile top destinations also?
* What new test cases are you planning to run if any?
* Are the acceptance criteria similar to before or are they different with the updated requirements?

Thanks in advance, and if anything in this email isn’t clear please let me know and I’ll get back to you as soon as possible.

Best, Jermaine

**Organizational Tools: Evaluate the organizational tools and Scrum-Agile principles**

One of the most effective ways to share important information in Agile is through face-to-face communication, however his isn’t always an option since teams are often not located in the same place (Kneafsey, 2023). To address this challenge, Agile tools like Microsoft Projects can be utilized. Microsoft Projects enhances coordination and boosts team efficiency by offering visual project planning, task management, and progress tracking/reporting. Like how information radiators or daily scrum meeting display critical information to the team, such as work progress and is constantly updated (Cobb, 2015).

**Evaluating Agile Process: Assess the effectiveness of the Scrum-Agile approach**In reference to the SNHU travel project I believe the scrum agile approach was the best framework to implement for this project based on the pros and cons. A few of the cons for this project was in the planning phase it was difficult to determine the requirements and that made it even more difficult to estimate the length of the project and the overall scope. These cons are actually the main selling point of the agile method because it doesn’t require all requirements upfront because of its adaptability and flexibility through the constant feedback channels (sprint review and daily scrum meetings). In addition, because the requirements aren’t set in stone at the beginning delivering the product in small increments is a better approach because if something needs to be changed last minute it won’t be as labor intensive because the project isn’t done, and the feedback comes more frequent.

**References**

Cobb, C. G. (2015b). *The Project Manager’s Guide to Mastering Agile: Principles and practices for an adaptive approach*. John Wiley & Sons.

Kneafsey, S. (2023, March 31). *Agile principles - effective communication*. Scrum.org. https://www.scrum.org/resources/blog/agile-principles-effective-communication