Using an Agile framework has many benefits that can enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of project management inside many different applications of software development. Agile promotes flexibility and adaptability by using consistent customer feedback, amplifying team collaboration, risk management, and increased transparency. The practices inside of the Agile framework supports more of a dynamic and responsive approach to managing a project in which changes are frequent and deliverables are in high-quality.

Let us begin the point of view of the Development Team and work our way up to the Product Owner. The Development Team has been integral to SNHU Travel project’s success. Using Agile they can contribute to the project by meeting their objectives efficiently and effectively. The team uses their technical skills to design, code, test, and deploy solutions that are fundamental in translating requirements into software that is functional and of high quality. As we can see some of the examples of the site have been updated to reflect the goals from the User Stories in which the user’s preferences and features have been created.

The Scrum Master plays a crucial part in the success of any project using Agile framework. The Scrum Master facilitates Scrum processes and ensures that the team adheres to Agile principles and practices. They also help remove impediments that could hinder the team’s progress on the way. The Scrum Master has been able to engage in Sprint Planning, Daily Scrum meetings, Backlog Refinement, Sprint Reviews and Sprint Retrospective. Implementing these practices has played a key role in developing the SNHU Travel site. Being able to communicate well with the team and agree on specific practices such as our discussion boards, where we can agree on certain aspects that are important to implement in the project.

The Product owner has a very important role as they are the connection to the stakeholders/users. They provide the vision and strategy that defines the product. The Product owner Christy gathered information from the users that helped the development team build user stories which gave them the ability to prioritize and gather accurate estimates regarding what it would take to fulfill the user’s needs and wants within the program. The Product Owner also has a key responsibility of managing the product backlog. This involves prioritizing the product backlog. The most important features of the project are to be worked on first.

User stories is a very effective practice within scrum-agile frameworks as it helps display what Christy (PO) prioritizes based on business value, customer needs, and the stakeholder’s input. The team focused their immediate efforts on the most important stories first so that they are always working on the tasks that reflect the highest value. Christy was able to interview the stakeholders and provide the team with features they deemed important regarding the site. We were able to build a spreadsheet reflecting the tasks, their priorities, and the size of the tasks. The team then used this spreadsheet to build test cases which laid out a more specific direction regarding the layout of the site and more details for pathways to the features.

There are many characteristics that involve using Agile as a main framework and one of them is communication. It is important to communicate and be transparent with the entirety of the team. Using Scrum practices fosters an environment where collaboration, true alignment, understanding the direction, and the essence of teamwork begin with communication. In our discussion boards we were able to choose roles of a scrum team and reflect on a case study that revealed issues a company was having using waterfall methodologies. We discussed what practices we deemed most important to these specific short-comings the company was experiencing. We asked specific questions to each other which highlighted details that lead to an agreed upon plan to use Scrum practices that would assist in the company’s successful future.

Organizational tools such a JIRA and Microsoft Azure can assist in many aspects of Agile. Using these tools for the SNHU Travel site will provide us with a visual insight regarding the progress of tasks and who they are assigned to. Since Scrum involves breaking down work into manageable tasks, these tools offer tools like Kanban Boards where team members can track the progress through the different stages of the project. These tools can also support Sprint Planning by enabling the team to select items from the backlog in which we can see, using boards and charts, tasks that have been allocated which gives us a better vision of the sprint goals.

Although Agile has many positive aspects to utilizing its methodology, it also comes with some cons. For example, communication is paramount for many of these practices to be implemented correctly. With high communication demands it could be challenging to maintain these standards when a team is distributed throughout the country or even the world. Learning how to implement Scrum effectively can take a lot of upfront training and adaptation, especially if members are use to using the waterfall methodology or other methodologies that they are comfortable with. We do have to remember that Agile is flexible, obtainable, and teachable. There are many benefits that would spawn from using Agile-Scrum frameworks for the SNHU Travel site. Since this site it heavily customer based, flexibility is a major factor for a successful project. Christy gathered new information from the stakeholders and they informed us that detox/wellness destinations were going to be very popular in the near future. The team was able to switch gears quickly and implement the change in features to satisfy the user’s new demands. Consistent customer engagement, continuous improvement, and rapid iteration are all pillars in Agile that lead us to the successful deployment of the SNHU Travel Site.