**Sprint Review and Retrospective – Module 7**

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I want to start by highlighting that, having the opportunity to reflect on the project from the unique perspective of each role within a Scrum Team helps understand the importance of each member, and promotes the collaboration and sense of ownership that characterizes an Agile team. Each team member represents a piece of a big puzzle that can only be finished by complementing each other. That being said, the following analysis focuses on how each member contributed to the success of a project:

**Product Owner**

The success of delivering high quality software begins with the interpretation of the stakeholders’ expectations/needs/requirements which is one of the most important tasks of the Product Owner. Having the business knowledge and being able to apply its value to the technical features that will need to be delivered will help create well defined and actionable user stories. Acting as the bridge between stakeholders and the team ensures that the end results are aligned with the client’s needs and expectations as well as making sure the feedback is well received and implemented. For example, the user stories that were created for this project were clear and concise, but at the same time they were flexible enough that, in case of new requests, the work that was already done was not going to waste. Specifically in module 5, there was a new request from the SNHU Travel management; the Product Owner expressed the importance of this new approach to the team and at the same time understood that the backlog priorities needed to be rearrange in order to achieve and adapt the work to the request.

**Scrum Master**

While completing the project, the team was also transitioning from Waterfall to Agile, so the Scrum Master role was beyond being a facilitator. In this case, the big contribution was guiding the team towards creating a collaborative and creative culture as well as encouraging them to understand the importance of continuous improvement and accountability. In order to keep the team engaged, it is necessary to create an environment that fosters transparency and open communication where each team member can thrive. For example, making sure the backlog is updated and relevant will help maintain focus and motivation by reducing unnecessary work.

Practices like Sprint Planning and Daily Scrums ensure that the whole team collaborates and provides feedback that can help established the balance between the client’s needs, request and expectations, and technical feasibility. In module 3, the meeting with the customers gave an overview for Sprint Planning; the customers where expecting a software that could give personalized travel experiences based on budget, type of vacation, and desired activities; however, in module 5, the SNHU Travel management decided that their main focus was going to be detox/wellness destinations. The quick adaptation to this new request demonstrates that the team was adhering to the Agile principles. This could have been the result of well structure Daily Scrums that allowed visibility on the tasks being accomplished and how they could work on a new plan to accommodate the new request.

**Tester**

The overall user experience was crucial in this project, so making sure to validate that the product’s functionality was optimal and aligned with stakeholders’ expectations was one important task that was in the Tester’s hands. Working closely with the Product Owner and the Developer made this task achievable and adaptable (to the evolving project goals) as open communication is key to established clear priorities without compromising quality given the short deadline of the project.

**Developer**

As I have been mentioning throughout the analysis, the main event of this project was the last minute request made by SNHU Travel management. With the Agile flexible approach of incremental development, the developer was able to integrate the request to the work that was already done. Also, since the environment was set for transparency and open communication, the developer was able to confidently express the concerns and the compromises that needed to take place in order to maintain alignment of the project with the stakeholders’ expectations.

The Scrum Agile approach focuses on iterative development which allows the team to break down user stories into smaller and more manageable tasks; this makes it flexible and adaptable at the same time by being customizable so stakeholders feedback can be integrated. For example, after meeting with the end users, the main request was customization and that was broken down into smaller tasks like sorting per budget, type of destination, etc.

When the project was interrupted by the SNHU Travel management’s new request, the focus was reusability and backlog refinement in order to accommodate and rearrange the priorities based on the project’s new direction, avoiding disruption on the progress as much as possible to ensure timely delivery.

In terms of communication, analyzing the email samples written on the Tester and Developer journals, I believe the requests were clear and organized (Developer email: the tasks were separated and well defined for each person – Tester email: questions focused on aligning functionality with user expectations). However; there is always room for improvement which is the main goal of this reflection. I believe the implementation of tools like Jira or Azure will enhance collaboration by providing a visual tracking/overview of the project as well as supporting Scrum Events.

In summary, the Scrum-Agile approach was very beneficial for the SNHU Travel development project. It offered flexibility and adaptability to the project; it provided the team with a good overview of the Agile methodology by encouraging collaboration, focusing on stakeholder feedback and involvement, and maintaining functionality and user expectations aligned. Although the outcome of the project on Agile was very good, there are some areas that can create an overwhelming environment for the team members like delayed feedback from stakeholders (the detox/wellness implementation to the project). This request deprioritized existing tasks in order to meet the deadline, which could have compromised the delivery of value. For future projects, the goal would be to ensure stakeholders stay proactively engaged and their involvement stays consistent.

**References**

* Charles G. Cobb. (2015). *The Project Manager’s Guide to Mastering Agile : Principles and Practices for an Adaptive Approach*. Wiley.
* **SDLC tutorial**. Tutorialspoint. (n.d.). https://www.tutorialspoint.com/sdlc/index.htm