CS-250 Final project.

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8/17/24.

(Some Fake scenarios were introduced to explain some concepts better)

Sprint review and retrospective.

**Applying Roles: Contribution to Project Success**

In the Scrum-Agile team for the SNHU Travel app, each role significantly contributed to the project’s success. As the Product Owner, I was responsible for defining and prioritizing user stories to align with the client’s needs (Schwaber & Sutherland, 2020). For instance, when feedback indicated a demand for a more intuitive destination search feature, I crafted and prioritized a user story: "As a user, I want to filter travel destinations by type and price range." By prioritizing this feature, I ensured that the development team focused on delivering high-value functionality that directly addressed user needs (Cohn, 2021).

As the Scrum Master, I facilitated the Scrum process and addressed any impediments (Schwaber & Sutherland, 2020). For example, during a Sprint, the team struggled with integrating a third-party API for flight bookings. I led a Sprint Planning meeting to break down the tasks associated with the API integration and utilized planning poker for accurate effort estimation. This collaborative approach clarified the scope of work, allowing us to tackle the integration effectively and keep the project on track (Beck & Andres, 2023).

Within the Development Team, I took on dual roles as both a Developer and Tester. As a Developer, I implemented a modular code structure that facilitated easy updates and maintenance, crucial when shifting focus to detox and wellness travel. As a Tester, I developed comprehensive test cases to identify and address bugs early. For instance, I detected a critical bug in the user interface design during testing and resolved it before it could impact the project’s timeline or quality (Cohn, 2021).

**Completing User Stories: Scrum-Agile Approach**

The Scrum-Agile approach was instrumental in completing user stories effectively. By utilizing iterative Sprints, we ensured that user stories were continually refined and developed (Schwaber & Sutherland, 2020). For example, during the development of the mobile app for SNHU Travel, each Sprint delivered incremental features such as an improved search function. This iterative approach allowed for ongoing feedback and refinement, ensuring that the features met user expectations and were functional by the end of each Sprint (Beck & Andres, 2023).

**Handling Interruptions: Managing Changes**

When the project direction changed mid-way, the Scrum-Agile approach provided the flexibility needed to adapt swiftly (Schwaber & Sutherland, 2020). Initially focused on general travel, the project pivoted to emphasize detox and wellness travel. We held an emergency meeting with key stakeholders to reassess the Product Backlog and reprioritize user stories. For instance, the general search feature was redefined to include filters for wellness retreats. This adaptability was crucial in ensuring that the project remained aligned with the new business goals and could deliver relevant functionality on time (Cohn, 2021).

**Communication: Effectiveness and Collaboration**

Effective communication was key to the project's success. During Sprint Planning, when ambiguities arose, I facilitated discussions to clarify requirements. For example, when a user story regarding the wellness retreat search was initially vague, I led a detailed discussion with the team to define clear acceptance criteria (Beck & Andres, 2023). Daily Standups were also crucial; for instance, when a developer faced issues with API integration, raising the problem during the Standup led to collaborative brainstorming and a prompt resolution. These communication practices ensured transparency and fostered a collaborative environment (Schwaber & Sutherland, 2020).

**Organizational Tools: Evaluation**

The Scrum-Agile principles, supported by tools like Jira and Confluence, were essential for project organization and success (Beck & Andres, 2023). Jira provided a visual board that tracked the progress of user stories and maintained clear documentation of acceptance criteria. This transparency helped the team stay focused and organized. Confluence served as a central repository for all project documentation, ensuring that everyone had access to the latest information, which was crucial for maintaining alignment throughout the project (Cohn, 2021).

**Evaluating Agile Process**

The Scrum-Agile approach presented both pros and cons during the SNHU Travel project. On the positive side, Scrum’s iterative nature allowed us to adapt quickly to changes, such as shifting the project focus to wellness travel. The regular feedback loops from Sprint Reviews and Retrospectives helped refine the product and address issues promptly (Schwaber & Sutherland, 2020). However, the approach also had drawbacks, including the potential for scope creep and the challenge of managing changing priorities mid-Sprint (Beck & Andres, 2023).

Overall, the Scrum-Agile approach was well-suited for the SNHU Travel project. Its flexibility and iterative process enabled the team to navigate the project’s direction change effectively and deliver a product that met the revised business goals. The ability to continually refine and adapt the project based on feedback ensured that the final product was aligned with user needs and client expectations (Cohn, 2021).

**References**

Beck, K., & Andres, C. (2023). *Extreme Programming Explained: Embrace Change*. Addison-Wesley.

Cohn, M. (2021). *Agile Estimating and Planning*. Prentice Hall.

Schwaber, K., & Sutherland, J. (2020). *The Scrum Guide: The definitive guide to Scrum: The rules of the game*. Scrum.org.