Keaton Davies

Software Development and Lifecycles

Module 7 – Sprint Retrospective

**A Culmintation of Effort: A Sprint Retrospective**

Over the last seven weeks the team for SNHU Travel has worked together to bring to life the vision we shared for the SNHU Travel Website. It wasn’t without it’s own bumps and hiccups but in the end it finally came together. Between our Product Manager getting updates, our developers being hard at work designing and implementing those changes, to our tester team working through issues that arose from changes that we were a bit less than prepared for. We got it all squared away and delievered a product we feel is truly the vision we had for SNHU Travel.

The webpage features some recent changes made to emphasize wellness and detox retreats instead of being a more generalized travel webpage as brought up by the Product owner to the team. It was something that came fairly late in the process as we at one point had everything all rolling with the original generalized ‘travel’ theme but our Development team took this change in stride especially after the Product Owner got some user stories nailed down on what exactly the end users and stakeholders were looking for. The email example provided below is what the correspondence looked like involving this change:

To: Development

Subject: A change in focus.

Hello Team,

I wanted to let you know I just recently updated some user stories. In our recent stakeholder meeting I demonstrated what we had for the SNHU Travel project and it went over well, but they wanted to let me know they had a recent change of focus. The main brain behind SNHU travel wanted to mention how trendy vacations focused on health and wellness. So let’s be prepared to pivot this project in a new direction and I am sure we’ll tackle this change fantastically!

Thank you,

Keaton Davies.

Product Owner.

The development team had some issues off the bat as they ran into some discrepancies in hardware between what they were working on and what was approved for end users. One developer in particular learned that his personalized workspace running a non-standard operating system (Garuda Linux) had a hard time opening and being able to parse the code created by the rest of the team. This was easily resolved however and the project moved along without issue.

For the Tester team they ran into a time crunch as one of the members had left of vacation and ended up trying to work remotely. This lead to some conflict as they pushed the envelope on how close they could come to deadlines and almost missed the expected SLA for outlining test cases to the rest of the team. However they did in the end get this resolved with some work.

Overall I don’t think this project would have ran as smoothly if we had tried to accomplish it in Waterfall method. The change in direction would have been a massive issue in waterfall that would have essentially meant scrapping the project and starting from square one with a new assessment and planning phase to outline our new plan for the waterfall project. In agile it was very easy to shift gears and make the necessary changes needed to keep the project rolling in the right direction. Our user stories got worked out after being updated by our Product Owner. Our dev team worked hard to make sure the new emphasis on wellness and detox vacations was done easily with new locations, and descriptions running on the slideshow without any problems.

As Scrum Master I kept the team on track with daily fifteen minute stand up meetings in the morning giving everyone a chance to talk about the changes expected and how their part in the process was going. We talked about the issues with operating systems between the team and figured out a good process to get that resolved. We discussed how the impact on the tester team taking their vacation right before this deadline came up and how it impacted their ability to notify the team of any issues or problems they experienced based on the changes made.

I also wanted to make note of how indispensible Rally was as a tool to keep things organized. Without it I am sure the Product Owner would have had a harder time trying to keep things organized digitally as we worked through the project. I tried to keep a post-it note board as accurate as possible with noted concerns and I couldn’t imagine trying to keep things straight with how our stakeholders wanted to shift directions and being in meetings with users getting their opinions on design choices. Overall I applaud the team as a whole because it was our group collaboration that made this project as big of a success as it is. It made it really easy to be able to go in and check off/cross off the list of open user stories that needed implemented and for our tester team to go in and make ammends and notes on the steps they took when encountering issues for the Product Owner to readdress in our daily meetings.

I feel that without doing this in Agile this would have been a much different story. The greater range of flexibility offered by Agile and the fact we didn’t have to double check and run things by with the Product Owner and stakeholders really helped increase the speed and agility in which we were able to get this project taken care of. Moving forward I would really recommend that at ChadaTech we consider utilizing the Agile Framework for most if not all projects. It was eye opening how much of a difference it makes in terms of ease of communication with each team having the confidence to reach out and dicuss issues and come to solutions to how easy it was to work in the requested changes as they came up.

In conclusion this sprint was highly productive, and I wanted to thank our team for their work. We got a product we can all be proud of out to the stakeholders and users that not only meets, but exceed expectations for us.