7-1 Final Project: Sprint Review and Retrospective

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**Demonstrate how the various roles on your Scrum-agile Team specifically contributed to the success of the SNHU Travel project.**

Within Scrum-Agile team, a diverse cast of roles played pivotal parts in propelling the SNHU Travel project towards its triumphant conclusion. These roles encompassed Scrum Masters who is responsible for facilitating and coaching the Scrum team in adhering to the Scrum framework and agile principles, Product Owners who meticulously defined user stories, Developers who adeptly translated them into functional features, and Testers who scrupulously ensured the application’s quality. Drawing experience, when embarked on an in-depth exploration of these roles, furnishing specific examples of how each function harmonized and contributed to the overall success of the project. These examples will underscore the synergy that was essential for delivering a polished travel application, closely aligned with the requirements of our end-users.

As the Scrum Master for the SNHU Travel project, my role would be to guide and support the team in navigating the Scrum framework. The aim is to ensure each event serves its purpose and contributes to the project's triumph. Through collaboration, transparency, and ongoing improvement, we would work together to provide value to our stakeholders and make the project a resounding success.

As the Product Owner, I played a crucial role in shaping the project's direction and ensuring its success. This involved defining the project's vision and objectives in collaboration with stakeholders and maintaining a dynamic product backlog, continuously prioritizing features and tasks based on business value and user feedback. I actively engaged with stakeholders to gather and define project requirements, fostering transparent communication between the development team and our diverse stakeholder network. I oversaw acceptance testing, managed risks, and resolved issues, making decisions to address challenges as they arose. Gathering and analyzing user feedback and data informed our ongoing improvement efforts, and I collaborated on release planning to determine when and how new features were introduced to users.

As the Developer, I've learned to understand the need of asking the Product Owner and Tester for details to support the smooth flow of projects using the Agile process. To start, I'd ask the Product Owner to submit a prioritized list of user stories so we can decide which features are most important for subsequent sprints. Additionally, it would be extremely helpful to avoid misunderstandings during development if there were explicit and thorough acceptance criteria. I would ask the tester for a thorough test plan defining the testing's scope as well as early input on any areas that need more focus.

As the Tester,my initial test cases have been greatly influenced by the user stories. They helped me to have a clear understanding of the functions that the software is supposed to have and how users are supposed to interact with it. This has been extremely helpful in developing test scenarios that reflect actual usage. Additionally, the user stories frequently include descriptions of the anticipated results, which have served as unambiguous standards for assessing the efficiency of our testing efforts.

**Describe how a Scrum-agile approach to the SDLC helped each of the user stories come to completion.**

The Scrum-Agile methodology played a pivotal role in accelerating the achievement of user stories in the SNHU Travel project's Software Development Life Cycle (SDLC). The project was divided into short development cycles known as Sprints, which enabled the team to systematically address specific sets of user stories and maintain a consistent pace of progress. This iterative approach allowed for ongoing adaptation and improvement in response to changing requirements and feedback from stakeholders. Actively involving stakeholders throughout the development process ensured that the final product closely met their evolving needs and expectations.

In the context of the SNHU Travel project, we began by gathering requirements from end-users, which were then translated into User Stories to define the functional aspects of these requirements. These User Stories were designed to be brief yet sufficiently descriptive for both users and developers to understand. The standard practice for User Stories involved expressing the requirement, specifying the functionality, and explaining its purpose. Each User Story included the "who," representing the intended user, the "what," indicating the user's goal to complete a task, and the "why," clarifying the value added by the functionality to the requirement. Furthermore, the Scrum-Agile framework's emphasis on fostering a close collaboration between the development team and stakeholders proved essential in achieving user story completion.

Stakeholder engagement in Sprint planning, daily stand-up meetings, and review sessions provided valuable insights into user priorities and preferences, which then guided the development process. The inherent adaptability of Scrum-Agile allowed for the seamless accommodation of changing priorities and requirements without causing significant project disruptions. This customer-centric approach, along with a culture of collaboration and adaptability, ensured the effective development, testing, and delivery of each user story to meet the evolving demands of the SNHU Travel project.

**Describe how a Scrum-agile approach supported project completion when the project was interrupted and changed direction.**

In the disruptive landscape of software development, change and interruptions are not merely possibilities but certainties. The SNHU Travel project was no exception to these unforeseen events. In this section, we will recount instances where project interruptions necessitated a fundamental change in direction. We will explore how the Scrum-Agile approach, with its emphasis on flexibility and collaboration, empowered our team to promptly adapt to these unexpected challenges. This will be exemplified through specific case studies, highlighting the strategies and practices that were employed to not only maintain momentum but also reprioritize tasks, ensuring that the project stayed on track despite the disruptions.

**Demonstrate your ability to communicate effectively with your team by providing samples of your communication. Be sure to explain why your examples were effective in their context and how they encouraged collaboration among team members.**

Our success in the SNHU Travel project was intrinsically tied to the quality of our communication. In this section, we will provide a deep dive into the real-life communication samples, showcasing the nuances of communication that were particularly effective in the team’s context. The email below serves as an example of how this consideration is made evident in the correspondence addressed to the Product Owner and Tester:

*Subject: Request for Essential Information to Advance in Agile Development*

*Dear [Product Owner's Name] and [Tester's Name],*

*I want to make sure that our collaboration is as productive as ever when we begin the Agile development phase of the new strategy. To do this, I gladly ask for your help in giving information that is essential to the success of our initiatives.*

*I would first want to ask our respected Product Owner for help in providing a prioritized set of user stories for the forthcoming sprint. This will be crucial in assisting our development team in concentrating on providing the most beneficial features while assuring conformity with our project objectives. The elimination of any uncertainty during development and the eventual streamlining of our efforts would be greatly aided by clear and comprehensive acceptance criteria for each user narrative.*

*Your skills in drafting a thorough test plan defining the testing scope for the forthcoming sprint are essential to our committed Tester. With this, our development activities will receive the much-needed clarity and direction. Your early insights about areas that could need extra care when testing are also quite important. We will be able to prevent problems before they arise by responding to early input, which will increase the reliability and caliber of our deliveries.*

*I would really appreciate it if you could supply this information within the following [insert a suitable timeframe, e.g., 2 business days] so that we may proceed effectively. I sincerely thank you for your collaboration; your opinion is not only valued but essential to the accomplishment of our Agile development process.*

*Should you have any questions or require further clarification, please don't hesitate to reach out.*

*Very Respectfully,*

*Kendall Ferebee*

*Developer*

This email, in my opinion, was clear and concise. The communication requests clarification from the Product Owner after restating the requirement. Next, to incorporate the additional testing requirements into my code base, I ask the tester to submit them. The tone of my writing is also serene, suggesting that I'm willing to take the initiative rather than express intense anger at having to make an unplanned adjustment. The Tester might want to develop new test cases based on the information requested and send them to me, depending on the Product Owner's response. I believe that this kind of communication contributes to the development of a transparent and cooperative environment.

**Evaluate the organizational tools and Scrum-agile principles that helped your team be successful.**

When considering the impact of agile project-management tools on team coordination and efficiency, JIRA stands out as an exemplary tool. JIRA provides a centralized platform for issue tracking, task management, and team collaboration. It allows teams to create user stories, assign tasks, establish priorities, and track progress systematically. The tool's customizable dashboards and reporting features offer a comprehensive view of the project's status in real-time. This enables team members to identify bottlenecks, make informed decisions, and prioritize tasks more efficiently. Additionally, JIRA facilitates seamless cross-functional collaboration by enabling team members to comment on issues, attach relevant documents, and communicate within the tool. This consolidation of communication and task management not only streamlines workflow but also reduces the reliance on external messaging platforms, enhancing overall team coordination and efficiency.

**Assess the effectiveness of the Scrum-agile approach for the SNHU Travel project.**

The Scrum-Agile approach demonstrated notable advantages and some challenges within the framework of the SNHU Travel project. On the positive side, its iterative and adaptive nature allowed for continuous progress and adjustments, which was vital as project requirements evolved. Moreover, the emphasis on stakeholder involvement ensured that the product closely aligned with the changing needs and expectations of users. The rapid issue resolution and daily communication channels were advantageous in maintaining a smooth development process. Most significantly, the customer-centric approach guaranteed that the project consistently delivered value to end-users, which was a central goal.

However, there were also some downsides to consider. The Scrum-Agile approach could be resource-intensive, demanding considerable time and personnel resources, which might pose challenges for smaller teams or those with limited resources. Its complexity, particularly in terms of effective implementation, could be a barrier without skilled Scrum Masters and Product Owners. Additionally, the preference for working software over extensive documentation, which is characteristic of Agile methodologies, might not align with regulatory or organizational requirements that mandate comprehensive documentation.

In evaluating whether the Scrum-Agile approach was the best fit for the SNHU Travel project, it's crucial to consider the specific needs and context of the project. In this case, its adaptability and stakeholder involvement made it a suitable choice, given the evolving requirements and the necessity for regular feedback. While it presented some resource and complexity challenges, the overall success of the project suggests that the Scrum-Agile approach effectively met its goals and ensured the delivery of a product that met the dynamic needs of stakeholders.

Reference

Charles G. Cobb. (2015). The Project Manager’s Guide to Mastering Agile: Principles and Practices for an Adaptive Approach. Wiley.