Title: CS-250 Final Project - Sprint Review and Retrospective

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Applying Roles in the Scrum Team

Throughout this course, I experienced multiple roles on a Scrum team, including Scrum Master, Product Owner, Developer, and Tester. Each one played an important part in the overall success of the project. As the Product Owner, I created and prioritized user stories based on SNHU Travel’s needs, like displaying top travel destinations. The Developer role helped me bring those stories to life using Java code for ListView and Slide Show controls. In the Tester role, I made sure that each feature worked the way it should by writing test cases and verifying outcomes. Lastly, acting as the Scrum Master, I focused on promoting collaboration, removing blockers, and encouraging reflection during the retrospective and daily scrums.

Each role brought unique responsibilities that contributed to the final product. Without one of these roles, parts of the process would have failed. This experience helped me see why a cross-functional team is so important in Agile (Stackify, 2022).

Completing User Stories Using Agile

Using the Scrum-Agile approach helped me complete user stories by breaking work down into manageable tasks and focusing on one feature at a time. For example, the user story that required five top travel destinations with images and links was completed during one sprint by updating the ListView control and customizing the UI.

Because Agile is iterative, I could revisit tasks and improve them based on feedback. When the Slide Show feature didn’t display images correctly, I used feedback and testing to correct file paths and refine the layout. These adjustments were possible because Agile supports regular review and feedback cycles (Hamilton, 2014).

Handling Interruptions and Change

One of the key benefits of Agile is that it supports change without derailing the entire project. I encountered challenges like incomplete requirements and unclear image files. For example, I didn’t have the image assets needed for a specific user story, so I sourced placeholder images to keep things moving and updated the task in the backlog.

Agile principles allowed me to adapt in real-time. If this had been a traditional waterfall project, waiting for assets or decisions might have delayed everything. Instead, I could pivot without breaking the entire schedule, which reflects one of Agile’s biggest strengths—flexibility (Stackify, 2022).

Communication and Team Collaboration

Even though this was a solo project, communication was simulated through weekly Scrum reflections and journals. I also wrote emails and progress updates as if I were part of a real team. For instance:

“Hi team, we’re still missing image uploads for the Slide Show control. Could someone confirm who’s responsible? I’ll add placeholder images in the meantime so we can keep moving.”

This type of direct, respectful messaging would help avoid confusion, reduce blockers, and clarify who is doing what. According to Hamilton (2014), removing friction like this is key to continuous improvement in Agile.

Organizational Tools and Scrum Events

Agile tools like product backlogs, sprint planning documents, and daily scrum check-ins helped keep this project on track. In a real Agile setting, teams often use tools like JIRA or Azure Boards to manage sprints and tasks. These tools improve visibility and help teams respond to changes faster (Stackify, 2022).

I used a checklist to simulate a task board and organized stories into sprints. Scrum events like the Sprint Review and Retrospective gave me the chance to reflect and improve after each cycle. These events are critical for both performance and productivity (Hamilton, 2014).

Evaluating the Agile Process for SNHU Travel

Agile was the best fit for this project because of how flexible and collaborative it is. Here’s what I found:

Pros:

– Short sprints helped focus on small tasks

– Feedback and iterations improved feature quality

– Adaptability helped manage unexpected delays

Cons:

– Time management required discipline

– Without a real team, it was hard to fully simulate collaboration

Despite the challenges, Agile helped me complete the project efficiently. A waterfall model would not have worked well here because I didn’t have all the requirements up front. Agile let me work with what I had and improve as I went along (Stackify, 2022).

**References**

Hamilton, B. (2014, September 24). Top 20 quotes for Lean business inspiration. LeadingEdge Group. https://www.leadingedgegroup.com/top-20-quotes-lean-business-inspiration/

Stackify. (2022, February 7). Agile methodology: The complete guide. https://stackify.com/agile-methodology/