Gary Clark

Southern New Hampshire University

CS250

December 12th, 2020

**Sprint Review and Retrospective**

As we successfully implement the SNHU Travel application, it is important to take time to reflect on our work to better ourselves for the future. We all played a major role in the success of this project and we must understand that each role has an equally important part in the process. In particular, the Product Owner did a fantastic job of communicating the desires of the client through the user stories and the product backlog. Without these goals clearly communicated, the development team would not have been able to create such a complete and functional tool for the client. As a result of the strong leadership of the product owner, we were able to comfortably and efficiently retrieve further information as questions arose during the development process. Moving on to the Scrum Master, we can see the results of the outstanding Sprints and daily scrums through the enormous amount of collaboration that this task presented. The sprints were accurate and reasonable in their required effort which allowed the development team to remain on task and on schedule. As mentioned before, the daily scrums were a cornerstone of the collaborative environment with the development team. The developers did a phenomenal job of constantly stating goals, concerns, and plans with each other in an open and efficient manner. Every day this would set a productive tone and allowed us to start the day on a high note. Last but not least, we must recognize the work of the tester who worked with the user stories to create concrete and concise conditions for the development team to judge the success of their work. This enabled us to deliver a reliable product to the client which has been thoroughly vetted for functionality.

The scrum-agile method that was used throughout the project fit right into the SDLC that many of us are used to. For example, the preliminary analysis was completed by the Product Owner through the user stories. These user stories would form the foundation of the development of this project. As we progressed, there were various tools which enabled us to complete these user stories quickly, efficiently, and wholly. During the designing phase, test cases were developed to serve as a guide to the development phase of this project. By having clear requirements to judge the functionality of the SNHU travel project, we were able to deliver a product which was reliable for the client. Each user story would form a “sprint” which allowed us to focus our design and development on each feature of the project such as the “Top Ten Vacations List” or the customizable price range. We were able to focus our attention to each feature to deliver the most reliable product possible in an efficient manner.

Without the use of the scrum-agile approach, the project would not have been able to adapt to change as easily. For example, when the client decided to focus on wellness vacations, we had to rethink our methods for creating a Top 5 list. Agile allows us to simply return to a previous iteration of development such as when we originally created the Top 5 vacations list and modify it to meet the clients needs. This would not have been possible under a waterfall approach as each step must be finalized before moving on to the next. Once the change was completed we then tested for effectiveness and resumed work where we left off. This is the power of the scrum-agile process in action.

On the communication side of the project, our language usage and conversations were extremely effective in delivering the proper information to the recipient. Our Product Owner led the conversation with clearly introducing his duties and responsibilities while welcoming responses from his peers. The message remained positive which allowed the team to maintain excitement to create this project. The Scrum Master provided great follow up when she asked, “Kari brought up using a software tracking program, such as Jira or Microsoft Azure, for communicating within the team. Do you have any input on either of these tools?” This is a perfect example of the honest and open dialogue that working in a scrum-agile environment requires. With such a fast paced environment, communication is the key to success and the way we go about it can make all the difference when delivering a product for a client.

A large part of efficient communication is organization. A chaotic and messy workflow will inevitably lead to confusion and a failure to deliver for our clients. Throughout this project we utilized many tools to maintain the proper level of communication. In our daily scrums, we set the tone for each and every day by communicating our goals, questions, and concerns with our fellow developers which allowed us to keep an efficient workflow. The product backlog allowed the team to maintain their “eyes on the prize” so to speak and the team was always aware of the required deliverables for the client. Even the test cases helped the development process by giving the team clear metrics to evaluate the functionality of the product, clearing up any uncertainty that might remain. On top of the scrum-agile framework, there were external tools that also allowed us to maintain communication. One such tool was Microsoft Azure which allowed for cloud storage of the build versions and test applications. This tool gave everyone easy access to all elements of the project, thus increasing the level of resources available to everyone.

Overall, the success of the SNHU travel project would not have been possible with any other SDLC methodology. This approach allowed the team to easily adapt to the changing client demands as well as bolster our intrapersonal communication. While the scrum-agile framework can be difficult to adapt to, we were able to overcome such difficulties with teamwork and guidance from our Scrum Master. There were times where the goals and workflow became chaotic, but those times were quickly reigned in using the tools available to us. This approach allowed us to work on multiple features simultaneously while still managing our workflow. Each sprint provided us with clear goals and timeframes to meet, the latter of which we were able to evaluate as we progressed. This gave us flexibility and adaptability that is simply not possible with a waterfall approach and the more projects we undertake using this methodology, the more our efficiency will improve and the more satisfied clients we will have. The scrum-agile framework should be the standard for our team moving forward and these methods will take our team to greater heights.