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Final Project

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The Product Owner was crucial to the success of the Scrum-agile Team as they were the person that engaged with the users and the stakeholders to determine what the customers were looking for and which aspects of the project were most important to be completed. The Product Owner then created the prioritized backlog to pass off to the Scrum Master and the rest of the team. Without the Product Owner meeting with the clients, the team would not have known that the customer wanted to change the travel website to focus on health and wellness vacations and the customer would have ultimately been disappointed with the result.

The Scrum Master also played an important role in the success of the team by communicating the changes made in the backlog to the testers and developers, so that they could reprioritize the customer’s desires to focus on wellness related vacations. The team was then able to revise their user stories to better suit the client’s needs. By creating detailed user stories, the developers were able to successfully determine pass/fail qualities of their work.

By dividing the work into small teams, prioritizing the requirements of the program, and organizing the workload into short sprints, the Scrum-agile approach was able to bring each of the user stories to completion in a time-efficient manner. An agile approach allows for functioning pieces of the program to be completed quickly, and the backlog ensures that the pieces are prioritized by importance and by size, so that more time can be allowed for larger projects. The Daily Scrum and Sprint Planning meetings also allowed for the client’s desired changes to be communicated to the entire team, so they could effectively change course and focus on the health and wellness centered vacations. Without the frequent meetings associated with an agile approach and the role of the Scrum Master, there is a significant probability that a breakdown in communication would have occurred, and the entire project would have been delayed.

This team excelled in their ability to communicate with each other and convey their needs to other members of their team. For example, here is an email from one of the developers to the Product Owner:

Attn Product Owner,

Attached is a copy of the test cases I have drawn up so far, although I would like some more details before I proceed with the testing. Could you please send me your notes from your meeting with the customers this afternoon and the updated backlog so that I can ensure I have all the information I need to proceed?

Thank you,

Development

In this email the developer submitted to the Product Owner what they had already created, and then asked specifically for the Product Owner’s notes and an updated backlog. By reading this email, the Product Owner can review the developers work so far so that he can see what progress is being made, and the brevity allows for him to quickly see what the developer is requesting. By asking for the notes and backlog before he proceeds with his work, the developer is also insinuating a sense of urgency in hopes of a quick response. Another example:

Attn Product Owner

CC Tester

Just wanted to make sure we are all on the same page as far as what all needs to be completed in this stage of development.

Product Owner, when you get a change could you send us the overview of the meeting you had with the clients and an updated product backlog with the new priorities added?

Tester, I would like to hear your thoughts on what you believe needs to be done differently at this stage and how long you believe it will take us to implement these new changes into our sprint.

I’m anticipating hearing from both of you.

This email also demonstrates the collaboration needed between the different teams to create a successful product. This developer also asked for specific things from each person, leaving no question of what was being asked of them. They also make sure to take into consideration the tester’s input on how long they believe it will take to complete the work on hand, so that the sprints can be executed accordingly.

Agile project management tools promote efficiency within the team by taking away the traditional management style of placing the bulk of responsibility on the project manager and dividing the responsibility among the entire team. This allows for every member of the team to be involved in the process of developing the project and provides for better coordination and communication. While Daily Scrum meetings are effective in providing face-to-face communication and conveying updates and goals, they do not provide an opportunity for openness and transparency like the information radiator does. Information radiators, whether physical or online, are on display for the entire team to view. This provides accountability for each member of the team to make sure they are contributing to the goals and allows them to share their progress and their setbacks. The visual representation of the team’s progress also provides a sense of teamwork and unity, which encourages openness and transparency within the group.

From all of this we can conclude that the Scrum-agile approach was the best approach to use for this project. The flexibility and continuous planning of this process was crucial in handling the changes by the clients midway through the project. The prioritized backlog and user stories allowed for functional pieces of the project to be created throughout the process, as opposed to the traditional waterfall method where nothing would have been functional until the final stages. The Scrum-agile approach also encourages accountability from the entire team through the use of daily meetings and project management tools, as opposed to leaving the brunt of the workload on the project manager, allowing for a greater sense of teamwork by having every member of the team involved with the process.