**Sprint Review and Retrospective**

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Software Development Lifecycle

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During the course of the development, we have had a few curve balls thrown our way, but we have overcome and prevailed. Like most adventures in life, things rarely go as planned. We were given many tasks to complete, one of which was the Top 5 Destinations list. Due to our Product Owner doing research and keeping the clients informed, we learned of a new wave of destinations, and we could be ahead of the curve. This is why an agile approach works best with software development. Our Product Owner informed us of the new features to be included and our development team was able to tweak the code to be exactly what our client wanted. This is the agile way!

In other approaches, like waterfall, we would not have been able to take this alternate route until the end of the journey. By then much more code would have been written, more testing would have been gone underway, and most importantly time and effort would have been wasted. This is why agile methods like Scrum work so well in software development. It is important to keep the client informed as much as possible, this will allow for new ideas to be brought to light. Our Product Owner did a wonderful job of gaining useful information and relaying it to the rest of the team. Because of the agile approach, the team was able to change direction and still meet deadlines.

In the beginning of this project, we had a set list of goals to reach. In this field, we encourage change and welcome it. This will allow us to give the client exactly what they want in a way that the end user will understand and enjoy. A change happened midway through this project, changing the Top 5 Destinations list from vacation destinations to places of relaxation and detox. This change came about because our Product Owner held a meeting with the clients and found that this was going to be the next big thing that the competitors would be featuring, and we could be first in line. She came to us fast and informed us on exactly what to do, moving other user stories to make this one a priority. Our development team, though having to take a few steps back, was able to make this change without starting from scratch. Like a well-oiled machine, all of our moving parts were able to see the problem, deal with the change in direction, and still reach the destination on time. This was only achieved because of complete communication and full transparency between all members of the team.

Communication and transparency are the keys to success for many different applications, and software development is no different. There are many different user stories to be completed, codes to be written, tests to be run, bugs to be exterminated, and so on. Using the information radiators, it is easy for the team to visually see what tasks are in what stages. Considering most of us work from home, or the fact that the Product Owner would like to see information to keep the clients in the loop, software like Jira is revolutionary. It essentially takes our information radiator and puts it on a virtual wall for everyone to see and can be altered and update in real time just like the physical wall. With these tools, and full communication, completing the rest of the user stories should be completed just as quickly and efficiently as the last.

The Scrum-agile approach has been quite successful thus far, and I have no doubt that it will continue to be so in the future. During this SNHU Travel project, other agile methods like Kanban could work, but it would not be as effective. In Kanban, we would still have an information radiator, even a digital one, but the time rates would be different. In Scrum, we deliver chunks of deliverables while Kanban delivers continuously, until the project is finished. There is also no product backlog in Kanban, which means there is no Product Owner or Scrum Master. Having these set positions allows the development team to work on their work and not worry about what is happening in the background. The Product Owner makes sure that what is being developed is what is wanted by the clients and the Scrum Master ensures that the development team understands the tasks completely. Scrum is more transparent, able to adapt to frequent change, have a higher productivity and higher quality products with faster delivery. Because of this, the Scrum-agile approach as the best approach for this project.

When using a Waterfall approach, the change in direction would have not taken place until the product was already completed. If the Kanban approach was taken, the change in direction would have still been meet, but the information may have not reached the team in such a quick manner. Scrum welcomes change and knows how to adapt to it. With a Product Owner that knows their team and understand the client, a Scrum Master that knows the tools the team needs to complete the tasks set by the Product Owner, and a development team that can write clean and efficient code up to best practice standards, there is no project that we can not complete.