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6-15-2023

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Module Seven Final Project

As the Scrum Master for the SNHU Travel project, I will provide a comprehensive Sprint Review and Retrospective to summarize the completed work. Our goal was to develop a web and mobile application for SNHU's travel services, empowering students, and faculty to efficiently manage their travel. This paper will discuss the contributions of each team role and provide examples of their success in achieving project goals. To add to what I mentioned above, my role as Scrum Master played a vital role in ensuring the team's productivity and well-being. I facilitated the Scrum process, including sprint planning, daily stand-up meetings, sprint reviews, and retrospectives. Resolving obstacles and fostering a supportive work environment were key aspects of my contribution.

The Product Owner played a crucial role in the SNHU Travel project's success by effectively communicating the project's vision and goals to the development team, ensuring a shared understanding of priorities and requirements. Their active involvement in sprint planning sessions was vital for defining user stories and backlog items.

The development team was instrumental in implementing the SNHU Travel application. They collaborated efficiently, shared their expertise, and supported each other throughout the sprints. Their dedication to delivering high-quality code was evident through continuous integration and regular code reviews. Moreover, they demonstrated adaptability by incorporating user feedback and embracing changes in each sprint.

The SNHU Travel project adopted a Scrum-agile approach to the Software Development Life Cycle (SDLC), which played a vital role in successfully completing each user story. This paper will outline how the Scrum-agile methodology facilitated the achievement of each user story, drawing upon specific examples from my experiences.

**User Story #1: Top Five Destination List**

The Scrum-agile approach was instrumental in completing the user story for the top five destination list. Through collaborative sprint planning, the development team identified key features and implemented them incrementally. Prioritizing based on value and effort; we delivered a functional top five destination list in the first sprint. For instance, we integrated a recommendation engine that analyzed user preferences and booking data to suggest personalized top destinations, enhancing the user experience.

**User Story #2: Top Destinations Based on Price Limit**

The Scrum-agile approach enabled the completion of the user story for top destinations based on a price limit. By breaking down tasks during sprint planning, the development team focused on core functionalities. Through an iterative approach, we delivered an initial version of the feature, allowing users to set their price limit and receive a list of destinations within that range. User feedback gathered during sprint reviews guided us in refining the feature, such as incorporating sorting options and additional filtering criteria to enhance the value provided to users.

**User Story #3: Vacation Types**

By leveraging the Scrum-agile approach, we achieved the successful completion of the user story for vacation types. Through close collaboration with stakeholders, we identified various vacation types, including beach, adventure, and cultural experiences. During sprint planning, the development team prioritized and implemented these vacation types incrementally. For example, in the first sprint, we concentrated on beach destinations, enabling users to explore and book trips to popular beach locations. The iterative nature of the Scrum-agile approach allowed us to introduce additional vacation types in subsequent sprints, ensuring a wide range of options for users.

**User Story #4: Customizable Destination List**

The Scrum-agile methodology played a crucial role in accomplishing the user story for a customizable destination list. By employing techniques like user story mapping and backlog refinement, we identified the essential customization features. During sprint planning, we broke down the user story into manageable tasks, including saving favorite destinations and creating personalized lists. Regular sprint reviews provided stakeholders with the opportunity to evaluate our progress and provide valuable input. As a result, we successfully delivered a customizable destination list feature that surpassed user expectations and significantly enhanced their travel planning experience.

The Scrum-agile approach has played a vital role in ensuring project completion amidst interruptions and changes. I will share some examples from my experience as a Scrum Master to illustrate the advantages of the Scrum-agile approach in managing project interruptions and changes.

Embracing change is a core aspect of the Scrum-agile approach, and it played a vital role in our project when interruptions and a change in direction occurred. An instance of this was when stakeholders requested a shift in focus to detox and wellness travel, deviating from the original plan of travel and vacation types. To address this change, we swiftly utilized Scrum's flexibility. Through a comprehensive backlog refinement session and the re-prioritization of user stories, we effectively accommodated the new project direction.

To add onto what was said above, the Scrum-agile methodology emphasizes continuous feedback and collaboration, which proved invaluable when the project direction changed unexpectedly. Through activities like sprint reviews and daily stand-up meetings, we actively sought feedback from stakeholders regarding the evolving focus on detox and wellness travel. This allowed us to iterate quickly, incorporating their insights and aligning our efforts with their expectations.

During the Sprint Retrospective, I initiated two discussion points on how effective communication is a crucial aspect of my role in facilitating collaboration among team members. One point I brought up was the importance of continuous process improvement to identify areas of improvement and promote a culture of learning. I encouraged team members to openly share their feedback and suggestions. By actively listening to their perspectives and acknowledging their contributions, I created a safe and inclusive environment that fostered trust and openness. This led to valuable insights and actionable recommendations for enhancing our development process.

To continue, I will assess the organizational tools and Scrum-agile principles that were instrumental in our team's success. This analysis will focus on the effectiveness of these tools in conjunction with the Scrum events and their overall influence on our project development.

An example of tools used for our team’s success would be **Sprint Planning.** Sprint planning meetings were essential in establishing clear objectives and priorities for each sprint. By utilizing tools like product backlogs, user story maps, and sprint goals, we achieved a shared understanding of the work at hand. These tools promoted effective communication and alignment among team members, resulting in realistic sprint goals and commitments.

By examining the pros and cons of the effectiveness of the Scrum-agile approach implemented in the SNHU Travel project, we will determine whether it was the best approach for the project's development.

Some of the Pros being **Flexibility and Adaptability** & **Transparency and Visibility.**

The agile Scrum methodology's iterative nature proved invaluable in enabling swift responses to changes and adapting our approach when confronted with interruptions, shifts in project direction, and evolving stakeholder requirements. To continue, the focus on transparency in Scrum fostered a clear and visible work process, allowing stakeholders to effectively monitor progress, identify potential issues in a timely manner, and make informed decisions based on the available information.

An important con to note is Time Constraints. We learned a lot about time constraints during this project and the importance of creating a quality product with very little given time. Active involvement and dedication from all team members are essential in Scrum, but this can present challenges when resources are limited, or team members have competing responsibilities. Between Pros & Cons stated above, I’ve determined that the focus on transparency in Scrum fostered a clear and visible work process, allowing stakeholders to effectively monitor progress, identify potential issues in a timely manner, and make informed decisions based on the available information.