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Sprint Review and Retrospective

Implementing the agile methodology for our pilot team during the SNHU travel project, proved to be a challenging and rewarding experience. This success was a result of each role playing a vital part to the team, contributing only what was absolutely necessary.

The agile methodology promoted flexibility and adaptability throughout the project. At the heart of this was the product owner. This role specifically was in charge of communicating customer needs into something that the rest of the team could understand and build. Through user stories and the product backlog the team was able to understand what functionality was needed and most importantly what order it needed to be created in.

This planning tool ensured that other members of the team, such as testers and developers, could contribute to the goals of the sprint cycle. Testers could start building test cases for the user stories which gave the developers a road map to follow. This promoted a “just enough” mentality for the team to follow which led to the rapid development of user functionality throughout the project. The teamwork between developers and testers fostered a wonderful collaboration that produced software at a greater velocity and ensured the team met its deadlines.

To guide the team was an experienced scrum master. He was a servant leader that was there to ensure all agile methodologies, principles, and agreed upon rules were followed. Additionally, he was there to draw from his experience to help the team when they hit any roadblocks and was vigilant in the deconfliction of any issues throughout the project.

The scrum-agile approach helped each user story come to completion in a multitude of ways. Mainly the stories are codified using a formal process that is easy to understand. When we implemented the user stories into our tracker, it improved efficiency from the time of the ideas’ inception all the way to when it finally got implemented. This makes it easier on all parties involved to meet the overall objective. The user stories are an efficient means to get your idea heard and conveyed correctly with the least amount of documentation possible. This enables a high performing team to perform.

Just like with most things in life, circumstances change and adapt. This project was no exception. Fortunately, agile is built with this in mind. We immediately had the product owner reprioritize the product backlog with new user stories to ensure we were working on the most relevant functionality for the stakeholders. Once the team knew what needed to be worked on, the testers immediately started to construct new test cases so that the developers could begin building the new desired functionality. This was a fluid process that did not impede the development of the project.

Communication is essential to a successful team. During this project we implemented a sprint daily stand up meeting. This allowed all team members to give the rest of the team an update on what they completed the day before, what they intended to do today, and any roadblocks they foresee in the future. This encouraged the team to interact with one another and fostered a collaboration amongst team members. In addition to this meeting, we also used email communications for getting updates and clarifications on product design and functionality from the product owner.

One of the agile principles that we adopted to make our team successful was, “Welcome changing requirements, even late in development. Agile processes harness change for the customer’s competitive advantage.” When we got an update to what types of vacations we were going to be promoting late in the project, we used this principle to deliver the most value to the customer. This was done through effective communication and processes amongst all team members.

I believe the scrum-agile approach for the snhu travel project was a tremendous success. The main pros being flexibility, adaptability, delivering the most value to stakeholders, and meeting deadlines. I strongly recommend that we implement more projects with the agile methodology into our organization. It will build stronger teams, ensure we meet strict deadlines, and save the company money from re-work and testing in the process.

Works Cited

“Agile Principles.” *ProductPlan*, 2 Sept. 2021, https://www.productplan.com/glossary/agile-principles/.