SNHU Travel Project

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My journal entry will reflect on the formation of the SNHU Travel project and the application of the Agile Methodology explicitly with scrum in mind, throughout this course. The scrum framework involved various roles with each contributing to the project's success just as much as the other.

Our Product Owner acts as a liaison between the client and the scrum master, as they gather necessary information while also creating user stories to prioritize tasks. Our Scrum Master in turn takes charge of the production team, making sure that user stories and the product backlog are on track through the use of sprint planning meetings and daily scrums. These daily 15 minute meetings permit the team to discuss their accomplishments, current tasks, and ask for any assistance needed, thus allowing the scrum master and team to adjust as necessary.

Our Developers and Testers alike form what is seen as the backbone of the team, transforming the needs of our clientele into a tangible product. While Developers rely on thorough user stories and backlogs, collaboration between the two parties is essential to keep sprints on schedule. Open communication is critical, particularly between developers and testers. Testers make sure that the product functions correctly by using acceptance criteria from user stories and then making sure to report any bugs back to developers. Continuous communication between these two roles is imperative for a flawless final product.

Finalizing user stories is pertinent in this software development lifecycle, as it ensures the product will meet client needs. The scrum agile approach is considered extremely effective for this, predominantly due to how sprints are planned and implemented. By breaking down user stories into small achievable goals we can help maintain progress. Daily scrums are also an important component as they foster quick discussions about not only past successes but current situations and challenges. Every team member, from Product Owner to Tester, is responsible for contributing to user stories in order to achieve their individual assignments.

During the project a client requested a change, as they desired a slideshow of the top 5 wellness vacation destinations. After being notified of this the entire team collaborated, debating the new requirements and thus put together a plan to enact on. With direction from the Scrum Master and Product Owner, the development and testing teams successfully adapted and completed the new task on time.

Communication is essential to any team's success even including those using the scrum agile method. This is not limited to initial client interviews by the Product Owner to create user stories, team-wide sprint planning and daily scrums. Project management tools such as Jira or VersionOne can further aid communication, especially when larger projects with multiple teams are kept in mind.

The scrum agile approach is ideal for software development due to its flexibility since it allows for easy corrections and adaptability to ever changing client needs. Constant communication will be upheld throughout the team while some roles may have more leadership qualities. There is less of a top down structure as everyone is equally invested in the success of the project overall. This collaborative environment subsidizes successful project completion while also providing a more fulfilling career for those involved. When each individual team member starts to feel valued, productivity thus improves as now everyone feels like they are playing a direct role in the project.

One possible negative of this approach is disagreement among the team in regards to sprint planning or problem-solving during a sprint. A dedicated team culture is necessary to circumnavigate these differences. The scrum agile approach has proved to be ideal for the SNHU Travel project, mostly when the team had to quickly change to new requirements. This flexibility which as we know the waterfall approach lacks, has prevented significant delays in the project. The team has successfully made necessary changes while launching the website on time, thus satisfying the client being our users and investors.