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CS-250

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Sprint Review and Retrospective

Excellent work team! We have accomplished a lot during this sprint run. As your Scrum Master, I am proud to have worked with all of you to meet our goals and deliver functioning software in a timely manner. I am sure the SNHU Travel project will be a success.

By committing to our assigned roles, we have developed a flexible and efficient workflow. As your Scrum Master, I helped conduct daily scrums, keeping all of us focused on our work and up-to-date on the activities of the whole team. Our Product Owner did a fine job of communicating and maintaining our product backlog, leading to a final product with maximized value. Our development team worked efficiently to roll out the functionalities ordered by our Product Owner. In addition, the strong relationship between our development team and Product Owner let us decide what backlog items were truly valuable and what could be reserved for a later time due to our limited schedule. Our testers provided invaluable input on the product and its end-user behavior, which made life much easier on our Product Owner and developers. Congratulations to everyone for maintaining an organized and collaborative workplace during the sprint.

Our Scrum-agile approach allowed us to swiftly generate and complete quality user stories. For example, our client expressed an interest in being able to be recommended flights based on previous travel history. We transformed this idea into a user story and began writing test cases to help fulfill the story. After the development team and testers had done some work, an email from the Product Owner expressed some additional functionalities that could be implemented. Our development team quickly revised their test cases and began testing again. This quick and efficient process makes it quite obvious why this methodology is called agile. I am proud of everyone for their speedy and quality performance.

During the project, unexpectedly, our client asked the team to put an emphasis on detox vacation packages. Under a waterfall approach, we may have tried renegotiating our contract with out client and pushing back our deadline. However, as an agile team, we were able to brace this interruption swimmingly. Rather than pile on more work for the team, our Product Owner reprioritized our product backlog so that we could implement our most important functionalities without delaying the final product. Our team’s dynamic reaction to this challenge gives me confidence that agile is the right way to handle software development moving forward.

As an aside, I would like to congratulate the team on maintaining a positive and constructive workplace environment. With proper communication skills, we were able to work together and smoothly follow each step in the procedure. I am happy with the patience our team has demonstrated, even in the face of unexpected changes, and with how much care we gave to interpersonal interactions, which is a high agile value. As an example, I would like to share some examples of the stellar communication I saw this sprint.

“The user is brought to the vacation's page, which lists details about the specific vacation.” This test result is clear and concise.

“Additionally, I am depending on my Scrum Master to create appropriate sprint goals that can reasonably be achieved by the developer team.” A developer expressed to me what I can do as a Scrum Master to help the development team in a polite and concise manner.

I noticed that a few tools and principles were especially effective in bringing our goals to fruition. User stories were one of the most heavily utilized tools. By explicitly writing down what functionality we would like an end user to see in our software, we could be on the same page about what our product would look like and do when released. Additionally, writing user stories allowed our Product Owner to manage the product backlog and prioritize what functionalities must be developed in our limited time. This came in incredibly usefully when we were tasked with putting an emphasis on detox vacations. Rather than extending our deadline, our product owner rearranged our backlog in order to make the best of the time we were given.

Another aspect of agile that greatly helped us was our focus on working software over comprehensive documentation. When running through test cases or developing new functionalities, our development team was quick to give us demonstratable code. Enough care was put into documentation so that our code could be easily developed without bogging our development team down in extraneous documentation requirements.

Overall, the Scrum-agile approach was a great success for the SNHU Travel project. We were able to meet our most important goals in a limited amount of time. I am still impressed that the team delivered a satisfactory product in spite of a major, unexpected interruption. I think that our clients and stakeholders will love our product. I hope that you all feel the same way.