# 7-1 Final Project: Sprint Review and Retrospective

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Our Scrum Team worked on the SNHU Travel project during the two-week sprint. We have been helping the customer expand their presence and customer base by getting into trendy, niche vacation packages. Our Scrum-agile team consists of Christy-Product Owner, – a Scrum Master, and the Team – Nicole-developer and Brian-tester. With the help of every team member and their efforts, we delivered value to the customer. At the of the sprint, we have a page of top-five trending detox/wellness vacations.  
 Every member of our Scrum-agile team has contributed to the success of the SNHU Travel project in their own specific, valuable way. The Product Owner helped to stay on track by communicating with the customer and clarifying specifications that needed to be implemented. Christy has also created user stories to better visualize future requirements and use them as a base for test cases. Our Product Owner stayed involved during the entire sprint and prioritized the Backlog according to the user’s preferences. Brian created test cases for prioritized user stories and implemented all the changes made on the way for our team to stay on track. He also ensured that our final deliverable for this sprint met all the expectations and passed the tests. As a developer, Nicole put the test cases to work. She developed the page with the top-five detox/wellness vacations that included a picture, name, and description of every vacation. Together with Brian, they ensured the developed code passed the tests. As a Scrum Master, I was responsible for further agile implementation and clear team communication. I also held Daily Scrums in order to identify and eliminate any possible impediment to the team reaching the goals.

The scrum-agile approach includes numerous techniques in its architecture that aid in delivering the most value to the end customer and helping the team simplify the process. First and foremost, agile's iterative nature helped break down complex features into concise user stories with precise requirements. The constant backlog prioritization helped to deliver the most needed value at the end of the sprint. Collaboration and transparent communication resulted in fast adaptation to changes and code development that met the customers' expectations. With sprint planning that included the entire Scrum team, we could keep everybody on the same page and give the customer realistic expectations. Also, sprint planning showed effective collaboration between all the team members and allowed collective opinions regarding specific user stories. The other essential approach we used was continuous feedback, which we could receive on time and adjust the vector of our work because of the adaptive planning. Since agile encourages evolving self-organizing teams, during this sprint, we were able to share the ownership among the team members.

The Scrum-agile approach encourages adaptive planning. Thus, it was easier to adjust to the new changes compared to the previous waterfall method. Because of the continuous feedback and focus on customer needs, we identified the user-changed requirements and implemented them in the early stages of developing software. As you remember, the vacation packages were first supposed to be displayed in a list, then in slide mode. Regarding the context of the vacation packages, we changed the focus to detox/wellness vacations instead of regular tourist places. Because of the absence of detailed documentation that we were supposed to follow, adopted cross-functionality and clear communication, the test cases were adapted to the new requirement, and the code was changed accordingly without any further structural changes.

Communication is one of the cornerstones on the way to effective and efficient collaboration. The agile approach ensures that communication is clear and concise and everybody is on the same page. During this sprint, we held the Daily Scrum meetings to identify the progress and the problems the team members encountered. The three simple questions like ‘What did I do yesterday?’, ‘What will I do today?’, ‘Are there any obstacles in my way?’ helped us eliminate the problems at the early stages and not let them evolve into bottlenecks. Continuous communication between team members outside those daily stand-ups, for example, in the form of an email, aided in receiving prompt clarification and feedback.

Here is a sample of an email communication between Brian and Christy:

“I have got a chance to look at the user stories you created. I am in the middle of developing test cases. After going through the selected user stories, I would like to clarify some required aspects that are crucial in order to deliver the product that meets the customer's needs. Could you please give me more information on the following question whenever you have time?..”

During this sprint, we used different organizational tools that helped us to succeed. For example, we used Jira as an agile project management software in the Sprint planning meeting. This tool aided in visualizing the upcoming work, prioritizing the backlog, and assigning work to the team members. Since some daily stand-ups were held online, we used video conferencing tools like Microsoft Teams. Also, during the online stand-ups, we used the Kanban board to visualize work and enhance efficiency.  
 So far, we adopted quite a few agile principles that helped us to get to the state where our team is now and meet the customer expectations. Some principles that we continue to improve are continuous feedback and cross-functional and self-organizing teams. The iterative nature of the agile approach assists in breaking down complex issues and focusing on one thing at a time. In addition, the principle of frequent delivery of working software helped us meet the customer's needs and show the team's progress at the end of the sprint.

Overall, the agile approach proved its effectiveness in the first sprint of the SNHU Travel project. Flexibility, presented by agile principles, helped keep our team on track and adapt quickly and efficiently. We delivered the value to our customer after two weeks of working on a project, and it has perfectly met the customer's needs. We can all see how the communication among our team has improved since then. By breaking complex tasks into smaller parts, we could focus on one thing at a time and deliver the part of working software to our customers.  
 Although the implemented agile-scrum approach can have its cons, our team overcame them during this sprint. Some possible disadvantages are possible unpredictability in planning because of embracing an adaptational vector of requirements and a process of adopting agile that is time-consuming and requires extra effort in addition to regular work.   
 From my standpoint, including all the outcomes of our sprint and the team's collaborative growth, the Scrum-agile approach met the company's needs the most. If we continue to follow agile, this path will add a lot of value to the company and make Chada Tech the strong competitor in the market. Although I believe we must fully adapt the company's culture to agile, choosing the approach according to the project needs is also essential. Some projects may require more detailed documentation, as in the Waterfall method, but the overall strategy should stay agile.

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