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CS-250

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ChadaTech Sprint Review and Retrospective

Our last four-week sprint at ChadaTech went differently than planned, yet we met the dynamic environment in which we operate in, in an adaptable an agile fashion. As the scrum master I facilitated an environment in which communication led to an enhanced level of adaptability. Our product owner groomed a backlog based of feedback from our users. Our product testers designed test cases around the product backlog. Finally, our developers adapted to take advantage of an opportunity in a dynamic way that only agile methodology could respond to with such speed and flexibility.

Each role played and essential and invaluable role in our last sprint. As the scrum master, I succeed when you succeed. By facilitating the scrum framework, I listened to your feedback, and helped us succeed by making sure each team member could work at full potential. The product owner set in motion a series of product improvements based on invaluable user feedback. While we had to adapt due to the environment in which we operate, these improvements were adapted for our current sprint. The work of our product owner sets the direction in which ChadaTech chooses to use its resources. Our product testers adapted test cases for these improvements for use in our sprint. The work of our product testers set expectations for the level of functionality and quality of these improvements. Our developers met the empirical process of Agile with a level of quality and functionality that is expected of a great scrum team. The ability to shift to meet business opportunities displayed characteristics of scrum team empowerment and understanding of the business domain.

This ability to change direction and continue to complete projects is somewhat unique to scrum agile methodology. When our product owner met with SNHU travel management waterfall methodology might have had us too entrenched in shipping a full-fledged final product to be on the cutting edge and focus on detox and wellness travel. The ability of our testers to update the test cases on the fly showed the adaptability and commitment to continuous improvement that are characteristics of a great scrum team. The ability of the developer team to accept these changes mid sprint and still develop with technical excellence shows the feeling of collective ownership and open communication displayed by our great development team to still deliver features during the sprint despite our dynamic situation this sprint.

There were many examples of exemplary communication during this sprint. Without it the product wouldn’t have provided the same level of value to our customers. Like the email from Brian to Christy where he asked for clarification on each of the three user stories. Instead of just developing the test cases and hoping that he understood what Christy meant when she developed the backlog, he took initiative and clarified important aspects of each of the three user stories. This kind of open and honest communication removes barriers that might slow the testers down or make ineffective test cases. It shows a commitment to Agile principles of a great scrum team by giving feedback and refining the backlog as a team.

This is just one of the many tools and principles that made our sprint a success. As the scrum master I provide the scrum framework, which is a powerful tool to help instill the principles in agile methodology. We used many principles of Agile methodology last sprint, particularly in our quality and testing. In our quality testing we wrote the tests before we wrote the code. These small incremental modules of testable code led to more immediate feedback with minimal amounts of code written at a time. Another Agile principle we really nailed on the head, was straight from the agile manifesto “Welcome changing requirements, even late in development. Agile processes harness change for the customer’s competitive advantage.” ‌Beck, K., et al. (2001) And “Our highest priority is to satisfy the customer through the early and continuous delivery of valuable software.” ‌Beck, K., et al. (2001). These first two principles were thoroughly satisfied in our sprint. They have a common theme, putting the customer first in all things to deliver the most valuable and functional software we can for our customer.

As we can see the scrum Agile approach was the only approach that could have enabled us to provide the value that we did during our sprint. Some may think of the shift in direction mid sprint may have been a misstep that could have been avoided using other more waterfall methodologies. That the vision for the final product was preempted by a short-term goal, or that our developers were blindsided by changing test requirements. We would just say, that’s Agile. These are not cons or shortfalls, but an unchanging commitment to our customer that meets the dynamic business environment with a swift and adaptive Agile approach. The ability to meet these demands on such short notice is our biggest advantage. It provides a level of value that cannot be matched by waterfall.

All that being said, I hope we can see now the reasons why the best methodology for our project is Scrum Agile. It’s the only way to provide for our customers in the ways we did during the sprint. The efficiency of our empirical approach is what makes SNHU Travel provide functional code in ways that other companies cannot.

Bibliography

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