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CS-250 SDLC

Final Review

* **Demonstrate how the various roles on your Scrum-agile Team specifically contributed to the success of the SNHU Travel project**.

**Scrum master**

The roles of the scrum master can be thought of as like a coach. They do not play the game, but they have a vital role just the same. The scrum master is there to help teach and guide the team in the practices of an agile approach such as scrum practices, theories, and rules. They help the team to have the tools and knowledge needed to be an effective team. The scrum master also helps those outside of the team to understand how scrum works and how their interactions with the team may hinder or help the team.

As the team’s scrum master on this project, I have tried my best to guide the team in scrum practices and events. Everyone did a wonderful job of staying on task and getting everything done within each sprint. We were able to keep the daily scrum meetings short and to the point. Any problems that were not part of the scrum meeting was given a different scheduled meeting to take care of. Overall, everyone worked well together and was willing to help each other on the different tasks.

**Product owner**

While the scrum master could be the coach, the product owner is more like a team manager. They are the go between for the stakeholders and the team. They keep track of the product backlog and decide what will go into a sprint. They are responsible for getting the most work out of each sprint and that the team is working at their best.

Our product owner was a great asset to the team. They were very dedicated to being the go between for the team and the stakeholders. That allowed the team to focus on their work and not be continually interrupted by people outside of the team. They also had a deft hand when it came to the product backlog, keeping it organized and always informing us of any changes so that the team was not blind-sided.

**Developer**

It is the developer’s job to take what is in the product backlog for the current sprint and have a potentially done product by the end of the sprint. They need to be able to use scrum tactics such as a Kanban board and daily scrum meetings to keep on track and be self-organizing. There are now individual titles within the developers, and everyone should be cross-functional with their skills.

Our developers worked as a team from the very start. Due to everyone knowing each other they were able to get started on the task right away. They each have their own specialty but were always willing to work with each other and learn new things. They did very well with the daily scrum meeting and hardly needed any intervention from me to keep them on task. That allowed me to work on keeping others in the company from interrupting their work unknowingly.

**Tester**

While there are no titles within a scrum team there maybe be a tester role if the company uses a hybrid approach within the agile approach. The tester works very closely with the developers to catch any mistakes in the product before the end of each sprint. By finding any errors within each sprint the team can fix them while they are small and manageable.

The tester on our team did not just limit themselves to testing only. They were willing to work with the others on the team to help with coding, refactoring, and the testing. It was wonderful to have someone finding the errors and mistakes early on so that they did not turn into huge mistakes later when the product was about to be released.

* **Describe how a Scrum-agile approach to the SDLC helped each of the user stories come to completion**.

By taking advantage of user stories, SNHU was able to get a bead on what the public and customers were looking for in their vacations. Reviews give the customers and stakeholders a say in what goes into a project. Putting these reviews into user stories helps to structure the changes and put them into order by priority and size. That allows the Product owner to organize and choose which changes are to go into which sprint and which changes can wait. For example, one user story wanted to be able to set the price limit when searching for a vacation package while another wanted to customize the list based on their previous travels. The first would be easy to add into a current sprint while the latter may need to be held until the next sprint.

* **Describe how a Scrum-agile approach supported project completion when the project was interrupted and changed direction**.

There are always going to be changes made to a project. With a scrum agile approach those changes are manageable. Instead of finding a huge error at the end of a project, the team can fix the errors while they are still small. This gives the added benefit of being able to change course if changes are made to the project at any point. Take for instance changes to the user stories. With the addition of the customer reviews showing that people are looking more towards healing and wellness vacations the team needed to restructure the types of vacations provided on the SNHU travel website. They did not need to change everything completely, just tweak it a bit.

* **Demonstrate your ability to communicate effectively with your team by providing samples of your communication**.

Due to the ever-changing ways of an agile approach, communication is very crucial to working smoothly together. We were able to accomplish this through a variety of ways. As stated previously the daily scrum meetings were a great way to stay connected with each other. It gave us that face to face interaction we needed. We were also able to keep up to date thru emails and an online discussion board. That helped us when we needed to discuss something but did not necessarily need a solution right away. The Kanban board was also a way to communicate although it was more subtle. It gave us a visual of who was doing what, what had been done, and what needed doing.

* **Evaluate the organizational tools and Scrum-agile principles that helped your team be successful**. Be sure to reference the Scrum events in relation to the effectiveness of the tools.

**Daily meeting**

Having a daily meeting is an excellent way to keep everyone on the team on track. It can also be used for the product owner to get a feel of how the current sprint is going and whether they need to adjust the coming sprint. At the meeting everyone will stand up and cover three questions. What did I do yesterday? What will I do today? What are my obstacles? Standing up helps to keep the team focused on the one talking, and the questions help each person’s time structured and keeps the meeting short, so it does not start to take on a life of its own.

**Kanban board**

Having a Kanban board helps keep transparency within the team. It also helps to make sure everything gets done. Everyone can see what has been done, what is being worked on and what still needs to be done. This also lets someone that specializes in a certain skill to help others that are also working on the same type of work.

* **Assess the effectiveness of the Scrum-agile approach for the SNHU Travel project**.

The use of a scrum-agile approach to the project for SNHU Travel was mostly positive. It allowed us to work as a team instead of individuals and helped to keep us on track. It also was effective to break the project up into sprints so that we could work on pieces of it. The sprints allowed us to be able to make changes to the project without having to back track to the very beginning. With set sprints and the help of our product manager we were able to put tasks into each sprint and be able to get them done for the most part. It was a bit shaky to start with as we had never done a full-blown agile approach and we needed to figure out how much work we could realistically get done in a sprint. I do believe this was one of the most efficient projects to date and I can see the company using the agile approach with other teams and projects. It made much more sense to be agile and allow for changes through out the project. Especially with customer reviews changing the user stories mid-way through. Using agile we were able to keep up the momentum that we had and still incorporate the changes needed to meet customer demand.