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Final Project

In the Scrum-Agile methodology, roles are critical to project success. In our SNHU Travel project, each role on the Scrum-Agile team played a distinct part in driving progress. I acted as the Scrum Master, facilitating daily stand-up meetings, sprint planning, reviews, and retrospectives. One example of my role's impact was during the sprint planning meeting, where I guided the team through backlog prioritization. This ensured the team was focused on the most critical tasks for that sprint. The Product Owner was responsible for maintaining and prioritizing the product backlog. The Product Owner helped the team focus on high-value user stories, and during sprint reviews, provided crucial feedback on the features developed. For instance, the Product Owner's feedback on a customer-facing booking feature enabled the team to improve usability before the final product release. The Development Team was essential in translating user stories into working features. The team successfully completed a user story related to implementing a user-friendly booking interface in one of the early sprints. Their role in incremental delivery ensured that we delivered tangible results after each sprint.

A key strength of the Scrum-Agile approach is how it helps user stories come to completion through structured, iterative sprints. In this project, each sprint focused on delivering a set of user stories. One example is the development of a real-time flight search feature. This user story was broken down into smaller tasks such as integrating a third-party flight API, designing the search interface, and implementing search filters. Each task was tackled in a sprint and reviewed during the sprint review. This iterative approach allowed the team to focus on one piece of the puzzle at a time, making sure each feature was thoroughly tested and refined before moving on to the next. By having short sprints and regular reviews, we were able to continuously incorporate feedback from the Product Owner and stakeholders, ensuring that the final product closely aligned with the user’s needs.

One of the greatest strengths of Agile is its flexibility in handling changes. During the SNHU Travel project, we experienced a shift in the client’s requirements midway through the development process. Initially, the client wanted a simple booking feature, but after receiving feedback from stakeholders, they requested the addition of a loyalty rewards program.

Thanks to the Agile methodology, we were able to handle this interruption without significant delays. The Product Owner re-prioritized the backlog, and we adjusted our sprint goals. The ability to pivot quickly in response to changing requirements helped keep the project on track while delivering a product that met the client’s evolving expectations.

Effective communication is one the biggest advantages of Agile. Throughout the project, I ensured that communication among team members was frequent and clear. Daily stand-ups allowed each team member to share their progress and discuss any blockers.

One particularly effective communication strategy was during a mid-sprint issue where the development team encountered difficulties integrating the flight search API. During the daily stand-up, the issue was raised, and the entire team brainstormed a solution. This collaboration and transparency ensured that problems were addressed early before they could affect the sprint’s outcome. By fostering open communication through daily stand-ups and sprint reviews, team collaboration was strengthened, enabling us to solve problems quickly and efficiently.

We used Jira as our primary organizational tool to manage the backlog and track sprint progress. Each user story was broken down into tasks, assigned to team members, and tracked on the board. This allowed for clear visibility into what each person was working on and the overall progress of the sprint. One example of Jira’s effectiveness was in our sprint planning sessions. By using the tool’s burn-down chart, we were able to estimate the velocity of the team and adjust the scope of each sprint accordingly. This ensured that we stayed on track and avoided overcommitting. The tools we used were aligned with Scrum-Agile principles, helping to maintain organization and clear communication throughout the project lifecycle.

The Scrum-Agile approach offered both advantages and challenges during the SNHU Travel project. he Agile process allowed us to adapt quickly to changing requirements, fostered collaboration through frequent communication, and ensured incremental delivery of features, which helped maintain client satisfaction. Additionally, the iterative nature of Agile allowed us to continuously improve the product based on feedback. One challenge we encountered was the constant feedback loop, which occasionally led to scope creep. The flexibility of Agile, while a strength, sometimes made it difficult to maintain focus on the original product vision.