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CS-250 Software Development Lifecycle

Final Project 7.1

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**Demonstrate how the various roles on your Scrum-agile Team specifically contributed to the success of the SNHU Travel project. Be sure to use specific examples from your experiences.**

When describing a Scrum-agile Team, there are typically three roles. These roles consist of Scrum Master, Product Owner, and Development team. The Development team is usually always multifunctional, including developers, testers, and engineers, to name a few. We must first talk about the role of Scrum Master and their responsibilities. The Scrum Master relates to my duties working for Sam's Club as an Assistant Manager. My vision of a Scrum Master is what Sam Walton, the founder of Wal-Mart Inc., always inspired his leaders to be. We must be servant leaders. As servant leaders, we must ensure that our team has the tools to perform the job, communicate effectively, encourage, and establish a fun, respectful working environment. Taking the role of Scrum Master in this project reminded me of the value of being a good servant leader. As a Scrum Master, you will organize and facilitate meetings, communicate, and collaborate with the Product Owner while maintaining an open door of communication with the Scrum team.

When I assumed the role of Product Owner, some key responsibilities changed, but I still felt that all positions within a scrum team needed to be cohesive. When a scrum team is running correctly, roles are blended, which helps with ownership collectively. As the Product Owner for SNHU Travel, we encountered some roadblocks. Roadblocks could be self-inflicted or simply new requests from the client. Like the scenario with SNHU travel, the client requested a change in the product based on earlier submissions. Yes, this was a roadblock that we did not see coming. One of the responsibilities of the product manager is to effectively communicate the client's needs adjust the backlog and user stories for the scrum team.

As the Developer for the SNHU Travel project, we received new direction from the Product Owner and re-prioritized the product backlog to meet the client's unique needs. Using the new User stories, we changed the code while updating pictures to the project.

Tester played a critical role in every stage in the project's development process. As a tester, you work closely with the Developer to provide simultaneous testing to ensure code remains functional while achieving every user specification in the backlog. Working closely with the Developer is often referred to as Paired Programming. A lot of the testing is automated but still requires constant monitoring. In addition, to the recommended pair programming used in agile methodology, continuous communication with the Product Owner and Scrum Master is critical in the project's success. As we reflect, we can clearly understand why each role on a Scrum team is essential in the project's success.

**Describe how a Scrum-agile approach to the SDLC helped each of the user stories come to completion. Be sure to use specific examples from your experiences.**

Many Methodologies work with SDLC, but we will be discussing the Scrum-agile method. The Scrum-Agile process was constructive in the SNHU Travel project scrum team. Using this approach helped with the total collaboration amongst different roles. For example, in Module 6, we were put in groups of 6 to 8. We had at least one member for each part of a scrum team. During this team project, we had to communicate what we were going to do and what roadblocks would impede us from reaching our goal. As a member of the Scrum team, either in the same capacity or in a different role, you had the opportunity to communicate and collaborate with your team on a professional level using the Agile method. Having the confidence that your discussions will remain free of judgment while receiving constructive feedback was reassuring in this process.

**Describe how a Scrum-agile approach supported project completion when the project was interrupted and changed direction. Be sure to use specific examples from your experiences.**

As previously stated, in module four, we were informed that the client requested changes made to steps we had already completed. The Product Owner and Scrum Master needed to communicate the new direction effectively and update backlogs and user stories. Then as a Scrum Team were able to collaborate and make the necessary changes.

**Demonstrate your ability to communicate effectively with your team by providing samples of your communication. Be sure to explain why your examples were effective in their context and how they encouraged collaboration among team members.**

           As part of the SNHU Travel, we were encouraged to communicate effectively to other staff members and stakeholders throughout this process. I have listed a few of the emails and communication provided throughout this process.

To: Brian

Subject: User Story Needs

After reviewing and evaluating the wireframe, Brian, we have a few questions that will need clarifications for me to proceed. Concerning the App, I need to know if you want it to mirror the website? Is there a specific format or design you want the App to look like? Do you want the same functionality? The slideshow was a bit confusing and did not provide much insight into the direction you want to pursue. Could you please clarify these concerns so we can proceed to produce the product you envision?

Thanks,

Kevin

Charles,

Great post! You laid a clear and precise approach as we transition to agile. Planning poker seems logical; how do you see the Tester playing a role within your plan? As the Developer and the Tester, I feel that you will be doing a lot of paired programming to help save on time and ensure that we meet all the story points that we have set. I love the detail in your post.

Thanks, Kevin

Fabian,

My role is also Tester. Your approach and detail are apparent. Test-driven development is automated testing. Since everything is automated, how will you ensure all details and user stories are met? My lack of knowledge of programming wants me to ask this question. I also expressed that paired programming is imperative for the product's success. Team collaboration is the key.

Thanks,

Kevin

           The examples of my communication to the team and client were practical but had some room for improvement. I learned here that you couldn't be timid, afraid to ask, and more importantly, the confidence to understand better the project, your teammates, and lastly, your client.

**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.**

A couple of the organizational tools that seemed practical were Azure and Jira Boards. Both are regarded as highly successful tools. Information Radiator sits best with me. I love the idea of a large transparent board that allows us to see actively and visually what is going on within the team and the project. The ability to walk in a room and see where the Developer, Product Manager, etc. are with their respective responsibilities is critical. Another critical practice is daily standups. I'm introverted by nature, so knowing that we have quick meetings and to the point is heaven to me. Standing up does not allow the team to become comfortable and keeps them focused on the key issues. The simplicity of the three questions that are the foundation of these standups is on point. What did you accomplish yesterday? What are you going to accomplish today? And lastly, what obstacles are in your way? All these tools were utilized in my decision-making regarding SNHU Travel and during this course.

**Describe the pros and cons that the Scrum-agile approach presented during the project.**

The only con that I see that could impact the Scrum-agile approach would be getting everyone on the same page. Having members on your staff that are 'not all in' could disrupt the harmony and cohesiveness of your team; therefore, it is essential to develop your team. To me, the pros of the project were option 'e' everything above. If you have a strong team, all the tools utilized in this approach will be successful.

**Determine whether or not a Scrum-agile approach was the best approach for the SNHU Travel development project.**

The Scrum-agile approach was the best approach for the SNHU Travel development project. I have struggled to get caught up this entire term, but I have learned looking from the outside(always late) thatI was able to look with an unbiased approach. I saw clear communication that was free of judgment. Each team member effectively communicated what, how, and why they chose their role and the steps they would take to accomplish this. Gave clear and informative feedback while asking why questions in their feedback. As I said earlier, this approach reminds me of what has already been instilled in me. Being a servant leader will always have the ball fall in your court.