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CS-250 Software Development Lifecycle

18, Apr 2021

7-1 Sprint Review and Retrospective

***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.***

For our scrum team at ChadaTech, we had a kick-off meeting with the entire team to begin our agile journey and transformation. We voted to name our scrum team as the Travelteers. For this project, we had members assigned to the following roles; a product owner, two developers, one tester, and myself assigned as the scrum master. Throughout the project, the product owner was great with engagements with end-users, stakeholders, and upper management. She was able to share the vision of the project and also elicit user stories of what they needed and/or wanted the system to do. The product owner was also great at managing the user stories in the backlog and refining/prioritizing the stories accordingly. As the scrum master of this project, I made sure to help the team with coaching and providing feedback to help with the team’s agile transformation. I also ensured to have the scrum ceremonies scheduled and helped led those sessions. One of my main priorities was making sure that the team discussed all blockers and impediments and then afterwards, I would have conversations with relevant stakeholders to remove those blockers. The developers on the team made sure to attend and participate in the scrum ceremonies and were self-organizing their work by completing user stories. They would also update the user stories with updates so that our work is up to date and transparent. The tester helped with not only aligning test cases to user stories for testing, but also executing those test cases and helping to log defects when they occur. All of the members of the scrum team helped with the final delivery and successful implementation of the product.

***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.***

The Scrum-agile approach through the SDLC helps the user stories come to completion by focusing on the design, build, and then testing the requirements for that user story while keeping the end-user engaged during the process. In a user story scenario, we were able to see that the end-user wanted to see specific criteria for their travel needs. In the agile process, we were able to build and then test to ensure the specific site functionality request was fulfilled.

***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.***

The project allowed for requirements to be added at a later date. The end-user wanted new specific criteria for the travel site portal and the team was able to be flexible and make changes based on the new requirements.

***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.***

Agile process is supposed to be a team, collaborative approach. Having the daily scrum meetings allows the team to coordinate their work. This meeting also gives the opportunity for team members to ask for help or questions to gain better clarity. For my communication with my team, I make sure that the team understands why the scrum ceremonies are important and always include a meeting objective in the meeting invite. If stories are not making any traction, I like to discuss that with the story owner to ensure they have all the resources they need to continue working the story for completion.

***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.***

ChedaTech used Jira as the primary agile tool for the organization, which became an instrumental tool used by the Travelteers, as it became the main tool for activities involving agile boards with user story backlog, sprint executions, and helped scrum teams with team collaboration. I always made sure to have Jira shared on WebEx during the daily scrum so that the team can walk the board to check on the progress of the sprint. We also used this during backlog refinement to add/refine user stories and sized the stories appropriately based on the team’s feedback. The team would have to make sure that the stories were updated on a daily basis when work has progressed or if there’s additional information that the team should know.

***Assess the effectiveness of the Scrum-agile approach for the SNHU Travel project. Be sure to address each of the following: Describe the pros and cons that the Scrum-agile approach presented during the project. Determine whether or not a Scrum-agile approach was the best approach for the SNHU Travel development project.***

The Scrum-agile approach for the SNHU Travel project was effective but there was a learning curve for the team. Some of the pros with going with this approach was the engagement with end-users throughout the entire process; the end-state of the product aligned to what end-users wanted as they were kept in the loop on the entire process. The biggest con of going through the Scrum-agile process is that not all of the stakeholders or end-users really understood what we were trying to do and were confused with some of the meetings they were invited to. It would have been great for the organization as a whole to go through training with a 1 or 2 hour boot camp to understand the agile principles. Overall, I think this was a great first project for the company to move towards an agile transformation as compared to the waterfall methodology, it’s much more flexible, and creates better customer satisfaction on the deployment of the product.