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CS 250

Final Project

Team, it is with great excitement that we can declare this latest sprint of the SNHU Travel Project complete. If not for all the hard work each of you has put into this project, we would not be where we are today. Keeping quality code and the happiness of our customer's and user base is clearly at the center of everything you all do and I couldn't be more proud. Let's take this opportunity to reflect on what we were able to accomplish during this sprint period.

Let's start off with our product owner. Christy's hard work and ability to connect with customer's on a deep level have given us excellent opportunity in this project. Christy was able to recognize shifts in the industry dynamic and help us navigate our current backlog to keep our product relevant and competitive.

Next, the developer and the testers have a lot to be proud of. These two groups of talented contributors got to work as soon as we got our stories in for this project. The communication they have with each other helped generate accurate tests, and clean and concise features through code. Their flexibility with sudden changes in the roadmap were integral to getting through this iteration. It is heart warming to see how these two teams assist each other.

Finally, the scrum master, myself. I would just like to thank everybody for their feedback and openness during this iteration. This team melds together so well, there was little problem resolving I had to do regarding this group. It has been

easy to share your work with investors and owners. You all have a lot to be proud of.

Next, I would like to reflect on how and why we use the Agile-Scrum approach to software development. For those that may be new to the agile development, we essentially segment different aspects of the project to various teams so that we avoid linear development.. For example, we had a team responsible for flushing out the user interface, another team responsible for web development, others for backend and etc. This means that these teams can develop code and features without a linear dependency like you would have seen in a traditional waterfall approach.

As you all know, we saw a sudden shift in the focus of the SNHU Travel Project, where we wanted to place emphasis on the detox destinations. Because we opted to use the agile approach, this meant we didn't have to scrap all the progress we had made up until that point. It did however, mean that a couple groups and our testers had to make some alterations, but and while we may have seen a slight delay in the completion date, the impact on seeing this sudden change in focus was significantly less that what we would have seen using the waterfall approach.

I know that working has been different since the pandemic has started. Many of us have been working from home for over a year, and we have seen switches in the way we communicate and organize our projects. We performed a good amount of research regarding these programs and found that in addition to using email for mass communication, we made the decision to implement the use

of Slack as an instant messaging system, as well as Webex by Cisco. Slack gave us the privacy we needed as well as flexibility to have private and mass communication. The use of Webex allowed us to still complete our stand ups, while abiding by safety guidelines. We also looked at implementing the use of Jira for keeping track of our progress through scrum boards and Kanban boards. The use of Jira made it easy to keep the product backlog updated as well as monitor milestones of our sprints and interactions through shared boards. I hope everybody has enjoyed using these programs, and please provide any feedback regarding your experiences.

Finally, I just wanted to take a step back and reflect on what this could have looked like using waterfall, and if this project was worth using the agile approach. When using the agile methodology, we see that our contributors become more self sufficient, and a sense of cohesiveness forms. This helps establish an environment where feedback is immediate, encouraged, and welcome. We are also generally able to see a quicker completion time when using the agile method. Some cons that we could potentially run into is the risk of perceived work balance between teams. Some teams may finish features quicker than others. It is encouraged that these teams seek out to ensure there is a minimum of technical debt or seek out other teams to support in the meantime. Additionally, we may get caught up more in the agile process, through planning and laying framework for the scrums and sprints than is needed and lose precious coding time.

A long hard look back on the SNHU Travel Project, at scale, would certainly benefit from the agile approach. It is in early stages right now, but as UI gets

ironed out, machine learning techniques are added, server communications are outlined and implemented, we would want to have a number of teams available to focus on these features, instead of waiting for the project to get to this point. This could save us valuable time and resources.

All in all, I am very proud of the work this team has done as we ramp up for the next sprint. Please take this time to spend time with your families, take a vacation, or otherwise unwind. I also highly encourage taking a moment of the day to reflect on what you are proud of, what you want to improve upon going in the next sprint, and any other ways that as the scrum master, I am able to provide assistance to you. Thanks again for all your hard work and dedication.