In a scrum team each member has their own roles and responsibilities that combine together to finish a project. In this project our product owner did a great job at finding out information from the client. Throughout every meeting she lead the conversation and made sure that everyone’s concerns were discussed and resolved. It was the job of the scrum master to be the subject matter expert and lead us through the steps of scrum. If we had any questions on programming he would also be a valuable asset. We also had our diligent developers who stayed on task and completed tasks on time. Without the right group to communicate, work through, and resolve the continual issues of development, the program would not be complete.

Agile has proved to be very valuable in completing this project. The many tools that have been developed for this software development life cycle (SDLC) framework have been invaluable in monitoring the progress of the project. The step-by-step mapping that is found in almost any article on agile can guide any newbie to agile from start to finish. In agile we find user stories which are the individual tasks for a project. For this project we had six user stories in the backlog. These included the ability to click a link to view the top five destinations list, being able to adjust profile settings to show only top destinations by type, being able to filter top destinations by price, the ability to click a link to view hot deals, the ability to extend the list to have up to ten top destinations, and finally, the function to display only relevant destinations for the end user. Each story is carefully built and tested and then added to the epic repository. Through this process we end up with less editorial work after launch. When we faced a huge change of direction from the client, we were able to go along with it and easily update our plans thanks to the tools built around agile. These included a lot of the documents that agile takes advantage of. From gantt charts, to activity diagrams, every one of them is designed for ease of change. Because it was early in the development stage, we easily changed direction before any real programming was done. That’s when the real work happens.

Communication is a very important aspect of Agile. Our team had to correspond with one another, and we did it quite effectively through email and written documentation. One example of this was through our team charter. At the time I was the scrum master, and it was my job to rally the team. In this document I communicated the overall objective, or mission statement, which states, “Offer a section on website for trendy, niche vacation packages.” I also covered the names of the individuals that will work on the project and the role that each had. “Bob – Web Developer, Dan – Web Developer, Sam – Network Architect, Amanda – Client, Isaac – Scrum Master, Christy – Product Owner”. It was through effective communication such as this that helped us all stay in one mind.

Agile tools are some of the best for project management. One that proved helpful was the Gantt chart. With this tool we were able to stay on schedule, and monitor the work done on each user story. When the project plan changed, it was really easy to update, or you could say it was adaptable to change. With the help of Lucidchart.com, we can dynamically update our charts and diagrams. Another tool we found helpful was the scrum meeting. In each meeting we discussed the tasks we were working on and the issues we were facing. If anyone had an idea on how to overcome it, it was welcomed. This kept us on track to continuously advance the project and not get hung up on anything. IDE’s are the most valuable tool in software development. Through this

The Agile methodology was a great tool to get us through this project but it also has some downfalls. We found that the flexibility Agile provides helps to relieve stress when changes occur, but it can also lead to extended deadlines. These extended deadlines are not good but are inevitable in a system that allows changes to the plan. If we were to have used a methodology like waterfall, I know our project wouldn’t have been as good as it is now. We would have been forced to stick with the original plan which would result in an upset client and a less. Because we were able to adapt to the changing needs of the business, we were able to create a program that better accomplishes the goal. I think this was the right approach to this project.