Sprint Review and Retrospective in ChadaTech

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ChadaTech was tasked with pioneering the agile methodology process to determine its suitability for the rest of the company. As part of this process, our team was divided into individual roles to initiate the software development lifecycle. The project involved testing the new methodology using SNHU Travel's tool for expanding its client base, with the team aiming to deliver a fully functioning product within a 6–7-week timeline.

The roles assigned to the team were Product Owner, Scrum Master, Developer, and Tester. In the role of Product Owner, Christy demonstrated that her decisions to maximize the value of the product helped to create a fully fleshed-out product. For example, Christy worked excellently with the team to develop Product Backlog items. The existence of this product backlog is essential as it serves as the team's initial point of reference for commencing the sprint, and it also enables them to meet the stakeholders' needs and requirements. Christy also effectively communicated the product goal to the team. This was done by regularly communicating with the stakeholders to understand the specific requirements needed for the Scrum team to meet. The only improvement that Christy could make as the product owner would be better descriptions of certain changes the stakeholders required. For example, the development team expressed in an email that certain aspects of changes needed to be met, which included specific UI components for the testers and developers alike. In general, Christy's demonstration highlighted the essential role of the Product Owner as a contributing member of the team.

In her capacity as a developer, Nicky adeptly showcased her comprehension of the development of the essential components of the product. Nicky would work tirelessly to create a Sprint backlog. This backlog became the backbone for Nicky to plan out her goals for the day. Each day, Nicky accomplished an aspect of the back-end development and front-end development. She also worked together with the testers to dramatically improve the product. For example, Nicky wrote an email to the team to work together to see which aspects of the product worked as well as the elements that didn't work to improve the code to work better for the end user. Nicky's role as a developer underscored their pivotal contribution as a valuable team member, providing essential support to the product's infrastructure.

In the capacity of a tester, Brian demonstrated his expertise and flexibility in implementing changes to the product to ensure its user-friendliness. For example, Brian created tests for each of the user stories provided and helped to improve the product's effectiveness. When some information was missing, Brian reached out to the team to get clear objectives so that the tests were written properly and would pass according to the user's expectations. These tests were later revised with specificizes from Product Owner Christy. These tests allowed for more specific results to be defined. Working jointly with developer Nicky, he helped improve the product and create a fully functioning product. The significant contributions made by Brain as a tester have played a pivotal role in offering valuable support to the development team, ultimately resulting in the creation of a more refined and efficient product for the client.

In his role as Scrum Master, Ron adeptly coached and guided the team to deliver a fully functional product with minimal issues. A Scrum Master plays a crucial role in driving efficiency and value creation, which are essential for successful project completion. Not only does a Scrum Master lead and coach the team to success, but they also eliminate barriers between stakeholders and the team when tackling complex projects ("Scrum Master", n.d.). Ron effectively fulfilled his responsibilities as a Scrum Master by overseeing the implementation of Scrum theory to ensure clear requirements and focused communication within the team.

By implementing an agile approach, our team was able to efficiently complete user stories. We identified our audience and promptly developed initial user stories for the Product Owner's input. Christy, who has an in-depth understanding of the product and serves as the link between the team and stakeholders, refined the user stories to better align with the product requirements and the users' needs. For instance, Christy introduced the use of bullet points to highlight specific information crucial for implementation by the team. This approach was highly appreciated by Brain, as it enabled him to create precise tests that could be further refined following discussions with Christy, the Product Owner.

The project did face some interruptions, but these were managed with efficiency and professionalism. The main interruption came from Nicky, who provided new information through our Product Owner Christy, on behalf of the stakeholders. After an email exchange among Christy, myself, and Nicky regarding the project requirements, the interruption was successfully resolved, enabling the team to enhance the product for our stakeholders and clients. To enhance our approach, we should aim for seamless communication and strive for an even more efficient method of team-wide communication.

Effective communication within our team was essential. The transparent communication within the team allowed for adaptability to the necessary changes. For instance, the email correspondence, particularly between Brian and Nicky, enabled the team to reassess our product objective and discuss the amendments during our daily scrum meetings. The communication in these emails led to a more effective adaptation of the product. As mentioned earlier, Brian was able to develop better tests as a result of our communication with Product Owner Nicky.

The Kanban Boards and Daily Scrum meetings were instrumental in facilitating organization and enhancing the overall product development process for our team. The daily meetings provided a platform for us to outline our daily tasks and address any potential disruptions or concerns that could impede our progress. Integrating the Kanban board into our meetings enabled us to allocate work efficiently among team members and uphold accountability for task completion. This proved particularly beneficial when dealing with interruptions. For instance, when Brian required clarification for his tests, he utilized the board and also notified the team via email, ensuring that everyone was aware of the issue causing potential delays in task completion. Once the issue was resolved, Brian could incorporate the feedback and successfully finalize the task.

The team encountered some challenges with the new methodology. Communication breakdowns required additional review to complete tasks in line with the product goal. Effective communication, however, enabled transparency within the team. On the downside, extensive client interaction sometimes led to conflicting priorities and hindered progress toward the product goal. Clear direction from Christy was crucial in helping the development team adapt to stakeholder requirements and stay aligned with the product goal.

As a Scrum Master, I firmly believe that adopting the agile approach was the most effective strategy for our team. Without it, we would have been overly reliant on extensive planning, resulting in a lack of clarity about the final product until the project's completion. Any missteps would have led to repetitive restarts until we aligned with the stakeholders' goals and requirements. This would have incurred significant time and cost overruns, jeopardizing the stakeholders' trust in our ability to deliver a product that fully meets their needs within the allocated budget.

References:

Overeem, B. (2016, April 15). Characteristics of a great scrum team. InfoQ. https://www.infoq.com/articles/great-scrum-team/