The Adaptive Approach to Project Management

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Chada Tech has come a long way over the years in its ability to provide its customers with some of the highest quality and newest advances in technology. As a company we wanted to continue to provide these services in a quick matter but at times fell short. This was a result of bottlenecks in development and unstructured communication among teams. The Waterfall method prevented us from growing as a team. We focused on getting the job done and less on the quality of our code. Recently a new project aroused and my team was tasked to assist. SNHU Travel requested a website that provided the trendiest vacation packages to its customers. Over the past few weeks, my team have attempted to change the way we approach our projects. We learned how to incorporate Agile in the way we worked.

Agile is an adaptive approach to project management. It was created to provide quick and efficient production of customer products through incremental development centered around continuous communication. My team continually incorporated Agile’s principles and values to our day to day tasks and in the end, we were able to provide the best work we have done so far. More importantly, we followed the Scrum model in an attempt to build better communication during development. My role as the Scrum Master was to coach the team through each sprint. I facilitated the Scrum Events and aide them through the Sprint to ensure that they had had no distractions and were fully focused on the development and testing process. During the daily meetings, the team chatted for 15 minutes on what they were working on and what they plan to work on for the current day. They spoke on any barriers that arose so that they can work as a team to find a solution. During the beginning stage of development, the team was unsure on how the client wanted to lay out the images on the website. They were unsure if the Top 5 destinations were to be presented in slideshow format or a single webpage. When the team was unsure on what was requested, they were able to quickly reach out to me and get clarification.

The Scrum Team also consists of the Product Owner. The Product Owner was able to communicate with the client during the entire process. We ensured that the client input was heard during the entire process so that changes can be made to ensure the client is happy with the product. The old method of doing things prevented us from ever winging off the plan. The product owner sat down with the client and went over the requirements for the site. The product backlog remained updated at all times while the team worked on the tasks, or user stories. This transparency ensured that they remained focused and aware on what needed to be done.

During the middle of the Sprint, the team was forced to change the website to focus on detox and wellness destinations. The development team had already coded and tested the current product as done. This change was sudden, but the team was able to make room to keep up with the client’s request. At the next sprint planning, the team discussed how they planned to make the changes. Testing reached out to the product owner and I via email to get clarifications on the correct testing models to follow. Testing was also responsible for creating automated regression testing and risked based testing. This helped to make sure the program remained bug free even when changes are made to the program.

The sprint backlog was an effective tool for the team throughout the sprint. This laid out a visible image for the team to see what was done and what was in progress. The increment development process allowed us to break down the work into smaller parts. This provided a consist flow in development and reduced the number of bottlenecks as well as money. Everyone on the team plays a part in the development process, no one has more work than another. The SNHU project helped show the team how a small group is able to complete a large project within the given deadline. SNHU Travels project started even when things were not fully clear. The team was able to start the project while still obtaining more information as they went. This didn’t slow them down, but in fact helped boost their ability to become self-efficient. Jira is an agile project management tool that allows quick and real time access to information involving the planning, development and testing of a product. We used this as a way to constantly have access to the sprint board at all times. As a sprint master, my role is equal to theirs. I only help facilitate the Scrum events and guide the team in the direction to success.

In the end, the client was happy and received the product they requested. This was a new experience for everyone. Agile is not a tool for all software development projects. There may be times we get a project, and everything is planned perfectly in the beginning. The client is aware of what they want, and the team is able to complete is confidently. The waterfall method could be sufficient in this matter. Agile is best when the full scope of the project is unknown. I feel that this was the best method to use when working on the SNHU Travel booking site. Its best to know when to use the Agile framework and when a simple plan-driven approach is appropriate.