Review and Retrospective: SNHU Travel Project

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**Review and Retrospective: Applying Roles**

In the SNHU Travel project, the contributions of each Scrum role were instrumental to our success. Here’s how each role specifically impacted the project:

**Product Owner:** As the Product Owner, I was responsible for defining and prioritizing the Product Backlog. For example, I led a focus group session to gather user feedback on desired features for the travel booking system. This feedback resulted in the inclusion of a new feature for customizable travel packages, which was prioritized and developed in a subsequent Sprint. The clear articulation of user needs and prioritization helped ensure that the most valuable features were addressed first, aligning the project with user expectations.

**Scrum Master:** In my role as Scrum Master, I facilitated the Scrum process and supported the team in adhering to Agile practices. During Sprint Planning, I introduced the use of planning poker to estimate the effort for each User Story. For instance, when the team struggled to estimate the complexity of the wellness feature, I organized a session where team members discussed their estimates, leading to a consensus on the effort required. This approach improved our estimation accuracy and workload management. I also led daily Standups to address impediments; when a critical bug was identified, I quickly coordinated with developers to resolve it, minimizing its impact on our Sprint goal and ensuring continuous progress.

**Development Team:** The Development Team’s role was critical in transforming User Stories into functional features. For example, as a Developer, I worked on implementing the booking engine’s backend logic and created unit tests to ensure its reliability. During the development of the wellness travel options feature, I collaborated with the Testers to define and execute test scenarios. This collaboration ensured that the feature met quality standards before it was delivered, highlighting the importance of cross-functional teamwork in maintaining high standards.

**Review and Retrospective: Completing User Stories**

The Scrum-Agile approach was effective in completing User Stories by breaking down complex tasks into manageable chunks and delivering incremental value. For example, in the first Sprint, we focused on core functionalities like user authentication and basic travel search. As we progressed, new requirements, such as integrating wellness travel options, were added to the Product Backlog. By continuously prioritizing and refining these User Stories, we ensured that each Sprint delivered valuable and functional features, aligned with user feedback and project goals.

**Review and Retrospective: Handling Interruptions**

When the project scope shifted to include new features for wellness and detox travel, the Agile approach allowed us to adapt seamlessly. For instance, after receiving the new requirements mid-Sprint, I organized a Sprint Review meeting to reassess our priorities and adjust the backlog. We reprioritized tasks, incorporated the new features into our Sprint plan, and communicated these changes to the team. This flexibility ensured that we could integrate the new features without disrupting our overall project timeline. It also demonstrated the strength of Agile in managing unexpected changes.

**Review and Retrospective: Communication**

Effective communication was crucial for the project’s success. One example of effective communication is the following email I sent to clarify new requirements:

**Subject: Clarification on Wellness Feature Requirements and Next Steps**

Hi Team,

Following our recent Sprint Review, I wanted to provide clarity on the new wellness travel options feature. Here are the key points:

1. **Feature Scope:** The wellness feature will include customizable options such as detox programs and spa retreats. These should be integrated into the existing booking flow.
2. **Testing Scenarios:** [Tester’s Name], please work on defining the test scenarios that will ensure the feature meets our quality standards.
3. **Development Priorities:** [Developer’s Name], focus on integrating the backend logic for the wellness feature, prioritizing the user experience.

Please reach out if you have any questions or need further information.

Best,  
[Scrum Master]

This email effectively clarified new requirements and involved the Tester in defining test scenarios, which facilitated collaboration and ensured that all team members were aligned on the updated project scope. The positive response from the team to this email set a standard for clear and proactive communication throughout the project, improving overall coordination.

**Review and Retrospective: Organizational Tools**

**Azure DevOps** and **JIRA** were crucial tools for managing the project. Azure DevOps was used for organizing the Product Backlog, planning Sprints, and tracking progress. For example, I used Azure DevOps to prioritize User Stories and manage Sprint tasks, which facilitated effective tracking of our progress. JIRA was utilized to monitor individual tasks and bugs, ensuring that issues were addressed promptly. These tools were chosen for their robust features that support Agile methodologies, helping us maintain a clear overview of the project’s progress. Additionally, remote tools like Webex and Google Duo enabled effective communication during Standups and Sprint Reviews, particularly for our distributed team.

**Review and Retrospective: Evaluating Agile Process**

**Pros:**

* **Flexibility:** Agile allowed us to adapt to changes, such as incorporating new features for wellness and detox travel, which kept the project aligned with evolving user needs.
* **Incremental Delivery:** The iterative approach enabled us to deliver valuable features regularly and gather continuous feedback, ensuring that the product remained aligned with user expectations.
* **Continuous Improvement:** Regular reviews and refinements based on user feedback improved the overall quality and relevance of the product, fostering a culture of continuous improvement.

**Cons:**

* **Scope Creep:** The flexibility of Agile sometimes led to expanded scope, which required careful management to prevent delays and maintain focus on the most critical features.
* **Predictability Challenges:** Estimating project timelines and resource needs was challenging due to the evolving nature of requirements, necessitating regular adjustments to our plans.

**Best Approach**

The Scrum-Agile approach was well-suited for the SNHU Travel project. Its ability to handle changes and deliver incremental value allowed us to meet client expectations effectively. Despite challenges in scope management and predictability, the benefits of flexibility, stakeholder satisfaction, and quality made Agile the best approach for this project. Moving forward, the key takeaway is the importance of balancing flexibility with careful scope management to ensure timely delivery without compromising on quality.