Sprint Review/Retrospective

The sprint review and retrospective are both important in noting what was accomplished within the sprint as well as what can be improved moving forward. Both are distinct in what they achieve but equally crucial in ensuring the team achieves their goals.

The product owner played a pivotal role in ensuring that the product backlog was well-defined and prioritized. For instance, the product owner quickly executed priority shifts with the backlog as requirements changed for user stories or new user stories were presented.

The development team did very well to adapt to the new agile ideology. They delivered high-quality product increments through their collaborative effort. They tackled user stories, for instance, when user stories were updated, they compiled their back-end and front-end knowledge to come together as a team to divide the work evenly to knock out the tasks at hand to push an on-time delivery of the sprint goals.

As the scrum master, I facilitated the daily Scum to help keep everyone on the page regarding each other's progress as well as address impediments. I also provided crucial coaching and guidance for the team during the sprint when needed. As a servant leader, I was always present to ensure the quality of life for my team. On one occasion I arranged for a team member with special expertise to lead a coaching session for other members to help tackle a more complex integration for one of our user stories. This was seen as an opportunity to explore and learn and as the Scrum master I enforced learning to ensure a constantly developing team.

The Scrum-agile approach was crucial in ensuring the completion of user stories. We used iterative development cycles, known as sprints, which allowed consistent delivery of increments of the stories to the stakeholders. For example, during the Sprint reviews the stakeholders provided feedback on our changes then we continued to iterate on them to further enhance future increments. In addition, the utilization of the product backlog helped to track and constantly keep track of changing requirements, as changes came down the backlog reflected it allowing the team to adapt easily with a visual reminder.

The scrum-agile approach supported us in adapting to changes effectively through the backlog prioritized by the product owner. The product owner kept a keen eye on the product backlog and quickly adjusted it if the stakeholder's requirements or user stories changed to give the team a visual list to accomplish in order of importance. The team then would tackle the re-estimation of the backlog to quickly get on track and reprioritize their tasks to accomplish the newly adjusted backlog.

I demonstrated effective communication and transparency as a scrum master by adhering to the daily stand-ups, retrospectives, and backlog refinement. I ensured an open-door policy to adhere to a consistent line of communication as well as constantly being present for the team to demonstrate the role of the servant leader. I kept the daily scrums concise and to the point, but noted off topics for further discussion to ensure everyone is heard and understood. Also, the daily stand-up was a time to focus on impediments and the team's progress to keep an open communication on what I could do to help them accomplish their goals. Second the retrospectives, like this one, were effective in ensuring the team had an opportunity to share their thoughts about the sprint to see if there was any more room to improve the next sprint. Lastly, I maintained regular meetings with the product owner to be the team's line of communication to ensure that everyone was tracking and adapting to the shifting backlog.

Organization tools that were utilized were tools like Azure Boards which is an application that helps organize the teams and their backlogs all in one app. As well as displaying meetings and goals for the sprint as a whole. It supports Kanban boards as well as scrum-specific planning tools that have greatly increased our effectiveness in managing the team's progress. We have also used communication tools like Slack that have increased the ability for team members to reach each other for more info or inquiries. Lastly, we utilized GitHub to help us host our code, maintain version control, and facilitate an easy way for collaboration. As well as access from anywhere if members are teleworking,

The scrum-agile approach presented pros such as flexibility, collaboration, exploration, customer focus, and communication. Firstly, the Scrum's adaptability allowed the team to quickly respond to changes and requirements. Second, scum's emphasis on teamwork encouraged members to work together more frequently helping to spread the knowledge more amongst the entire team. Third, the scrum flexibility allowed the team to focus on learning opportunities when they were presented so everyone could constantly develop their own skill set during the sprints. Penultimately, Scrum's constant feedback loop from the customers with the use of user stories helps involve the team with the user base making the end-user experience overall better. Lastly, the focus on teamwork opens up new lines of communication within the team that have never been thought of before, creating an openness for everyone to freely share feedback and input on each other's tasks.

The scrum-agile approach also presented a few cons such as a learning curve for the team to adjust to the new mentality of focusing on enhancing their processes and skills. The old process focused on output which made the team stagnant and uninterested in enhancing. Second, the new addition of more meetings was a struggle for some members to adjust to but with time everyone will see the benefit of each meeting. Lastly, the time constraint of sprints puts pressure on the team sometimes, but ultimately this can be fixed with a perspective shift as the team learns that deadlines are expected to be met but if it requires a detriment to our team members then it can be looked past.

In conclusion, the scrum-agile approach was vital in meeting the goals of the SNHU travel deployment project. The strong adherence to the scrum principles like collaboration, adaptation, and incremental development through sprints helped increase the team's overall effectiveness. Although some hiccups occurred, the agile approach has a learning curve that will be surmounted by the team. Ultimately the team will continue to express the Scrum principle of learning and come to sharpen themselves for an overall better product for our future clients too.