Zack A. Lodi

SNHU – CS250

Sprint Review and Retrospective

Throughout the SNHU Travel project, I assumed multiple key roles within the Scrum-Agile team: Product Owner, Scrum Master, Developer, and Tester. Wearing these different hats demonstrated how diverse contributions can work synergistically to drive success in an Agile environment. Unlike the traditional waterfall methodology, Agile gave our team the flexibility to collaborate, adapt, and respond to change efficiently as the project evolved.

As the Product Owner, I served as the link between the client and development team. My responsibilities centered on gathering client and user requirements, holding focus groups, and managing a dynamic Product Backlog. By maintaining backlog priorities, I ensured development efforts stayed aligned with client expectations, while still leaving space for new needs to be incorporated without derailing the project.

In the role of Scrum Master, I focused on reinforcing Agile principles and encouraging transparent communication. I facilitated sprint planning using the planning poker method to improve task estimation, led daily standups to track progress, and worked closely with the team to remove obstacles. When developers and testers encountered setbacks, I helped clear roadblocks so they could sustain focus and momentum.

The Development Team collaborated closely to deliver high-quality increments. Developers applied industry best practices to produce reliable code, while testers engaged early through defined test cases, working side by side with developers to identify and resolve issues quickly. This continuous feedback loop was essential to making steady, incremental progress.

One strength of the Scrum-Agile approach was its ability to decompose complex requirements into manageable user stories. Each story defined the user, functionality, and business value, which helped keep tasks clear to both technical and non-technical stakeholders. For example, the “top five travel destinations” feature was divided into smaller stories (such as the slideshow rotation interface) allowing developers to focus on implementation while testers validated acceptance criteria. Delivering these smaller increments not only sped up stakeholder feedback but also allowed for iterative improvements.

A key challenge came when the client requested a mid-sprint shift toward highlighting “detox and wellness” travel packages. Using Agile, we pivoted effectively: developers updated code, testers revised plans, and backlog priorities were quickly adjusted. In a waterfall model, such a change would have delayed progress significantly and increased costs. Success here was largely due to strong communication. A simple but critical developer email asking whether the slideshow should update dynamically based on package selection clarified requirements and kept testers aligned with the client vision: “Could you clarify whether the client wants the slideshow to update dynamically based on selected packages? If yes, I’ll adjust the test cases accordingly.” This clear message ensured alignment and reduced misunderstandings. During remote team operations, we used chain email threads and discussion boards to maintain ongoing dialogue despite varied schedules and geographic separation, showing Agile’s focus on being flexible and open.

Organizational tools such as Azure DevOps and JIRA improved transparency, supporting backlog management, sprint planning, and task tracking. These tools complemented our Scrum events (planning, reviews, daily standups, and retrospectives) allowing for visible progress tracking across a distributed team.

Overall, evaluating the Scrum-Agile process revealed both strengths and challenges. On the positive side, Agile promoted stakeholder engagement, fostered adaptability, and improved product quality through continuous feedback. However, evolving scope made it difficult to predict exact timelines and budgets, and maintaining close communication was more challenging in a geographically dispersed team. Despite these hurdles, the project outcomes highlighted the effectiveness of Agile.

Agile was the most fitting approach for the SNHU Travel project. Its adaptability and incremental delivery aligned seamlessly with shifting requirements and high stakeholder involvement. While outcomes under Agile can be harder to predict than under waterfall, the benefits of transparency, flexibility, and responsiveness far outweighed the drawbacks. From this experience, I’ve come to see Agile as especially well-suited for projects where client needs may evolve and where collaboration and adaptability are highly valued.

**Works Cited:**

Dugbartey, A. N., & Kehinde, O. (2025). Optimizing project delivery through agile methodologies: Balancing speed, collaboration, and stakeholder engagement. World Journal of Advanced Research and Reviews, 25(1), 1237-1257.

Akkaya, R., & Bagieńska, A. (2023). The effectiveness of agile leadership in practice: A comprehensive meta-analysis of empirical studies on organizational outcomes. Journal of Organizational Change Management. Advance online publication.

Dugbartey, A. N., & Kehinde, O. (2025). Automation and tools as critical enablers of Agile team efficiency. Journal of Software: Evolution and Process. Advance online publication.