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CS 250 - Software Development Lifecycle

Morrison - Final Project

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Sprint Review and Retrospective

On the Scrum-agile team, various roles specifically contributed to the success of the SNHU Travel project. The Scrum Master’s contributions to the success of the project specifically included helping the team continuously improve by facilitating retrospective meetings and coaching the team on ways to improve their processes, which helped the team deliver higher quality work and more value to stakeholders; removed any obstacles that were impeding the team's progress, which helped ensure that the team could deliver high-quality work in a timely manner; facilitated team meetings, such as Daily Stand-ups that helped the team stay focused and aligned on their goals; and ensured that the team was following Scrum processes, to guarantee that the project was delivered on time and on budget. The Product Owner’s contributions to the success of the SNHU Travel project specifically included defining the product backlog, which helped ensure that the team was working on the most valuable features or requirements first; prioritized the product backlog, which helped ensure that the team was working on the most important features or requirements first; communicated the product vision and goals to the team, which helped ensure that the team was aligned on the project's objectives and could make decisions that were in line with those objectives; and provided feedback on the team's work, which helped ensure that the team was delivering features or requirements that met the needs of stakeholders. For the SNHU Travel Project, the Product Owner asked some of the best customers to provide input into the new product and booking tool. The Product Owner asked the team their thoughts and opinions with questions such as if they were to update their tools and offerings what they would like to see. This allowed for the Product Owner to take the feedback and put together information to share with the team on how to create the initial booking system. The Product Owner on the SNHU Travel Project also communicated the product’s vision and goals to the team by providing an update two weeks later by informing the team that management wanted to focus on detox/wellness vacation based on an industry report. Although it was met with initial pushback and disappointment, the Product Owner was able to convey this information in a way that ensured the team that this update was a positive and that the work they completed up until this point could now become more narrowed and focused. The Developer’s contributions to the success of the SNHU Travel project specifically included estimating the effort required to complete each item in the product backlog, which helped ensure that the team was able plan and deliver work in a timely manner; collaborate with the Product Owner to ensure that the product backlog was well-defined and could be completed within the sprint time frame; and delivered high-quality work that met the Definition of Done, which helped ensure that the team was delivering value to stakeholders and that the product was of high quality. By working together and fulfilling their individual roles and responsibilities, the Scrum team could deliver a high-quality product that met the needs of the project stakeholders.

A Scrum-agile approach to the Software Development Life Cycle (SDLC) helped each user story come to completion by providing a framework for effective collaboration and continuous delivery. The first step in the Scrum-agile approach was to define the product backlog. This helped ensure that each user story was well-defined and had clear acceptance criteria. For the SNHU Travel project, this was completed in week three. The Product Backlog consisted of high-level user story list that identified each stories priority, size, user type, task, and goal. Afterwards, each story was further detailed to include its value statement and acceptance criteria. This process allowed for the Tester to later build test cases for each story to see if the generated stores were still feasible for the project. Also, the Scrum-agile approach to SDLC helped each user story come to completion through Sprint Planning and Daily Stand-ups. During sprint planning, the Development Team worked with the Product Owner to select a set of user stories from the product backlog to work on during the next sprint. The team estimated the effort required to complete each user story and collaborated with the Product Owner to ensure that the selected user stories could be completed within the sprint time frame. During the daily stand-up meeting, the team shared progress updates and discussed any obstacles that were preventing them from completing their user stories. This helped ensure that the team was focused and aligned on their goals and could identify and address any issues that came up in a timely manner. By following a Scrum-agile approach, each user story was broken down into smaller, more manageable pieces of work, with a clear focus on delivering value to stakeholders as early as possible. The team worked collaboratively, continuously communicating and improving their processes to ensure that each user story came to completion. This approach helps ensured that the team was delivering high-quality work on time and on budget, and that the product met the needs of stakeholders.

A Scrum-agile approach supported the project completion when the project was interrupted and changed direction by providing a flexible framework that allowed for rapid adaptation to changing requirements. This was achieved through Backlog Refinement and Adaptability. During week five, the Product Owner on the SNHU Travel Project providing an update to the team that management wanted to focus on detox/wellness vacation based on an industry report. Although it was met with initial pushback and disappointment, the Product Owner was able to convey this information in a way that ensured the team that this update was a positive and that the work they completed up until this point could now become more narrowed and focused. As the project changed direction, the Product Owner worked with the team to refine the product backlog and adjust priorities based on the new requirements. This helped ensure that the team was working on the most valuable features or requirements first. Scrum is designed to be flexible and adaptable to allow teams to respond quickly to changing requirements and priorities. Because the project was interrupted and changed direction, the team worked together to adjust their approach and find new ways to achieve their goals.

Effective communication is important in a Scrum-agile approach because it facilitates collaborative work, transparency, continuous improvement, adaptation to change, and customer satisfaction. Clear, concise, and open communication between team members was critical to achieving the project's goals and delivering high-quality work. For the Scrum Master, this looked like holding Daily Stand-Up meetings. For the Product Owner this looked like defining and prioritizing the backlog. For the Developer this looked like sending an email to request prioritization of the features to be developed, a detailed description of the user stories and requirements for each feature to be developed, access to testing and QA resources, and feedback and input on the design and implementation of the features. For the Tester this also looked like sending an email to request specific missing information to effectively plan and execute tests. Communicating effectively was critical in this Scrum-agile approach because it helped ensure that everyone on the team was aligned, focused, and working towards the same goal.

There were several organizational tools and Scrum-agile principles that helped the team be successful in achieving the project goals. These tools included the Product Backlog, Sprint Planning, Daily Stand-Ups, and communicating effectively. The Product Backlog was an essential organizational tool that helped the team prioritize and manage the requirements of the project. By ensuring that the backlog was well-defined, prioritized, and regularly reviewed, the team could focus on the most valuable requirements and deliver high-quality work. Sprint Planning was a key Scrum-agile principle that helped the team identify the work that needs to be done in the upcoming sprint, estimated the effort required to complete it, and ensured that everyone was aligned on the goals and objectives of the project. Effective sprint planning was critical to ensuring that the team was able to deliver value to stakeholders in a timely manner. The Daily Stand-Up Meetings was another key Scrum-agile principle that allowed the team to communicate and stay aligned on their goals. By ensuring that this meeting was held regularly, and that each team member provided updates on their progress, the team could identify and address any obstacles or challenges that would arise in a timely manner. As mentioned before, effective communication was a critical Scrum-agile principle that helped ensure that the team was aligned, focused, and working towards the same goals. By ensuring that communication was clear, concise, and transparent, the team could work together more efficiently and effectively.

The Scrum-agile approach presents several pros and cons that were considered when using this approach for the SNHU Travel Project. These pros include faster delivery, flexibility, customer satisfaction, collaboration, and continuous improvement. The Scrum-agile approach enabled faster delivery of high-quality work, as the team focused on delivering value to stakeholders in shorter time frames. Scrum-agile approach is designed to be flexible and adaptable to change, which made it well-suited to the project with uncertain or changing requirements. The Scrum-agile approach placed a strong emphasis on delivering value to stakeholders, which helped ensure customer satisfaction and increased the chances of the project’s success. The Scrum-agile approach emphasized teamwork, open communication, and collaboration, which helped ensure that everyone was aligned on the goals and objectives of the project. Lastly, the Scrum-agile approach encouraged continuous improvement, with regular feedback loops and opportunities for the team to reflect on their performance and identify areas for improvement. In addition to the pros of The Scrum-agile approach for the SNHU Travel Project, there were also some cons. These cons included reliance on team members, lack of structure, cost, time commitment, and limited documentation. The Scrum-agile approach relied heavily on team members to collaborate and work together effectively. If a team member was not fully committed or lacked the necessary skills, this could have hindered the success of the project. The Scrum-agile approach could have lacked the structure and predictability that some stakeholders prefer, as the focus is on adapting to changing requirements rather than following a rigid plan. The Scrum-agile approach can be more costly than traditional project management approaches, as it requires a dedicated Scrum Master and involved more frequent meetings and additional tools and resources. The Scrum-agile approach required a significant time commitment from team members, as it involved frequent meetings and constant communication. The Scrum-agile approach placed less emphasis on documentation and formal processes, which could have made it difficult to track progress or share information with stakeholders who were not part of the team. In summary, the Scrum-agile approach presented several pros and cons that were carefully considered when choosing the approach for the SNHU Travel project.

Determining whether a Scrum-agile approach was the best approach for the SNHU Travel development project depended on various factors, such as team size, project requirements, and complexity of the project. Scrum-agile approach is typically more effective for smaller teams. For this project, the team consisted of four members, which was suitable for a Scrum-agile approach. Scrum-agile approach is well-suited for projects with uncertain or changing requirements. If the project requirements were likely to change, a Scrum-agile approach is more suitable than a traditional project management approach. During the SNHU Travel project, the Product Owner brought to the team midway through the project that management wanted to focus on detox/wellness vacation based on an industry report. Scrum-agile approach may not be suitable for projects that are highly complex, such as those that require significant technical expertise or involve multiple teams. In such cases, other project management approaches may be more suitable. For the SNHU Travel project, its complexity was minimum and was not overcomplicated for the team. Overall, the Scrum-agile approach was a good approach for the SNHU Travel project because the team was small, complexity was minimized, and it allowed for the team to pivot when requirements changed.

Works Cited

“Product Owner and Scrum-Agile Team.” *CS250-Module Five: Product Owner and Scrum-Agile Team*, <http://snhu-media.snhu.edu/files/course_repository/undergraduate/cs/cs250/storyline/mod5/story_html5.html>.

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