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Software Development Lifecycle

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Sprint Review and Retrospective

As a scrum master, please see my thoughts below regarding the Sprint Review and Retrospective on the work completed by the team so far.

Our Scrum-agile team's success can be attributed to each member's pivotal role. The product owner was responsible for maintaining the product backlog and ensuring it aligned with the team's and the business's goals, which was crucial in clarifying our priorities. During our Sprint Planning, the product owner communicated the priority of a real-time booking feature that could enhance the user's overall experience. As Scrum Master, I was responsible for facilitating effective communication among team members, removing any obstacles that hindered workflow, and ensuring that the team adhered to Scrum principles. Our daily stand-up meetings proved to be an effective strategy for fostering collaboration and minimizing communication gaps. They also helped keep the team informed about the project's status across all aspects. Our development team consistently demonstrated exemplary work in designing, coding, and testing the project. The team's collaboration ensured clear communication, which helped overcome a complex user story.

Successfully completing user stories was possible due to the Scrum-agile approach we maintained. This approach was iterative and adaptive, meaning we adjusted user stories as necessary to ensure clear project priorities for the team. We estimated the effort required for each user story during reviews to ensure that everyone understood the work that needed to be done. These regular sprint reviews also allowed stakeholders to provide feedback, leading to refinements and improvements in the following sprints. Overall, this approach gave stakeholders a visual and comprehensive understanding, making the project more efficient and effective.

The Scrum-agile approach was constructive when the project faced interruptions or changes. For instance, when a client requested a change in the prioritization feature due to market demands, the team could quickly adapt to the new requirements by reprioritizing the backlog during the Sprint Review. This demonstrated the strength of the Scrum-agile approach, which allowed the team to pivot smoothly.

In adherence to scrum-agile practices, our team has maintained effective communication. This collaboration and open communication proved vital to our success and ensured smooth production. To keep communication as effective as possible, we have implemented sprint goals during our sprint planning, setting clear objectives. We also conduct Daily Stand-Ups to provide regular updates and address issues affecting the team. Additionally, we hold Sprint Reviews where we present overviews of the completed tasks to the stakeholders, allowing us to receive feedback. These practices help ensure transparency and collaboration within the team.

Organizational tools and scrum-agile principles bolstered the team's effectiveness. Jira was used to manage the backlog, ensuring well-defined and prioritized user stories. Sprint boards helped visualize tasks and were reviewed and discussed during daily stand-ups. Sprint planning and reviews provided structure and helped prevent delays by evaluating the effectiveness of each sprint.

My views and opinions on the Scrum-Agile approach, both positive and negative, are as follows. Some pros that the scrum-agile approach showcased were its flexibility and adaptability. This iterative nature helped to accommodate change and enhance product quality based on regular feedback. These practices also improve productivity and collaboration. Daily stand-ups and sprint reviews facilitate a need for constant communication among the team and stakeholders on the work being developed. Because scrum practices involve work being broken up into incremental deliveries, work completions are accomplished regularly, allowing stakeholders to provide feedback as the work is conducted in sprints. Some setbacks that come with agile are the need to understand the estimated times of challenges or tasks to better plan for them. These challenges or setbacks are sometimes unknown, so it’s impossible always to know the time it could take to complete tasks. Due to its collaborative nature, this practice is communication dependent; the effectiveness relies heavily on good communication skills from the team, and if these skills aren’t developed, it could hinder progress in a remote environment.

The Scrum-Agile approach was highly influential during the SNHU Travel development project. Its adaptability, transparency, and focus on continual improvement aligned well with the project's requirements by accommodating changes and allowing for regular feedback from the client. The Scrum-Agile approach played a crucial role in successfully completing the SNHU Travel project, highlighting its suitability for dynamic and evolving projects.

Resources

Charles G. Cobb. (2015). The Project Manager’s Guide to Mastering Agile : Principles and Practices for an Adaptive Approach. Wiley.