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Sprint Review

As a member of ChadaTech’s software development team, I had the opportunity to participate in a project. This project adopted the scrum-agile framework to develop an innovative travel application for SNHU Travel. Traditionally, ChadaTech relied on the waterfall model, which often resulted in rigid timelines and limited adaptability to client changes. This project marked a shift toward agile principles, emphasizing flexibility, collaboration, and iterative progress. The success of the SNHU Travel project depends heavily on the clarity and execution of each role. The roles included the product owner, scrum master, and development team members. Each role contributed with their respective responsibilities that fostered accountability and transparency throughout the SDLC.

The scrum master role was to guide the team in applying scrum principles effectively, remove obstacles, and ensure the sprint meetings were productive. For example, during a meeting, ensuring that user stories are prioritized in the product backlog based on client value and technical feasibility. When team members encounter integration issues during testing, being able to facilitate a discussion to identify dependencies and reassign tasks to balance workloads. Acting as the scrum master, it is necessary to be able to adapt and emphasize leadership. Allowing the team to self-organize while maintaining focus on sprint goals.

The product owner was responsible for defining the vision of the SNHU Travel application and ensuring that the user stories reflected customer needs. This role was critical for maintaining a clear product backlog. As an example, the product owner defined user stories like “As a traveler, I want to search for destinations by budget so that I can find affordable trips.” This provided both functionality and context. Their ability to refine backlog items into actionable increments ensured that the development process aligned with the client’s goals.

The development team was cross-functional, handling design, coding, and testing collaboratively. The team’s collaboration during sprint reviews highlighted the collective ownership of the project, demonstrating that the scrum roles were not isolated but interdependent.

Overall, each role played a vital part in achieving the SNHU Travel project’s milestones. By the end of the development cycle, the team exhibited improved efficiency and cohesion, reflecting the strengths of agile role distribution compared to the traditional waterfall method.

One of the defining features of the Scrum agile approach was the use of user stories to drive development. Each story represented a specific client or user goal, allowing the team to focus on delivering incremental value through successive sprints. Agile’s iterative structure ensured that each user story progressed through the backlog to a working feature by the end of a sprint.

For example, a user story during sprint 2 involved creating a “Destination list” feature, allowing users to view the top five rated destinations based on their preferences. Breaking the story down into smaller tasks, such as building the user interface, linking destination data, and testing navigation between pages. The use of daily scrum meetings allowed team members to synchronize progress and quickly identify blockers. When a teammate encountered an issue, the group collaborated to troubleshoot the code. This was a good demonstration of how agile’s emphasis on communication and adaptability accelerates problem solving and ensures story completion.

Another critical aspect of completing user stories was incremental validation. Unlike the waterfall model, which relies on full system testing at the end, Agile integrates testing throughout the sprint. During each sprint review, the team presented functional increments of the application to stakeholders. This not only helped ensure that the stories were complete but also provided opportunities for feedback before final deployment. For instance, the product owner requested changes to the search filter after viewing a demo, allowing us to make improvements early in the development process.

The agile approach also promoted continuous improvement in handling user stories. By reflecting during sprint retrospectives, the team recognized the need for clearer acceptance criteria and better documentation. These insights were also implemented in subsequent sprints, improving velocity and reducing rework. Ultimately, agile’s focus on iterative progress and customer collaboration ensured that user stories were consistently completed to meet both functional and quality expectations.

Handling interruptions and project changes was done seamlessly by using the agile methodology. As agile is built to accommodate change, and its adaptability proved essential during the SNHU Travel project. Midway through development, the team faced a change request from stakeholders who wanted to include a budget estimator feature. This modification had not been part of the original sprint backlog and required reprioritization of existing tasks.

Rather than delaying the entire project, we use agile principles to integrate change smoothly. During the sprint review, we discussed the idea of adding the feature without compromising ongoing work. The product owner reprioritized backlog items, and the new feature was planned for the following sprint. By using sprint planning and backlog refinement sessions effectively. We ensured that the new requirements were incorporated without disrupting project flow.

The experience illustrated that agile’s iterative structure and emphasis on collaboration allowed the project to remain flexible. Interruptions were viewed not as setbacks, but as opportunities to adapt and improve the product in alignment with stakeholders' expectations.

Effective communication is a cornerstone of the Scrum agile process. Regular scrum events, including daily stand-ups, sprint reviews, and retrospectives. These provided structured opportunities for transparency and collaboration. One of the most effective communication practices was the use of information radiators, such as digital task boards. These boards displayed user stories, sprint progress, and individual responsibilities, allowing everyone to stay informed on the project. When one developer noted a block status on their task due to issues, it would immediately prompt team discussion and support. This transparency reduced bottlenecks and maintained steady progress.

Communication was also important between the scrum team and stakeholders. The product owner’s sprint review presentation showcased tangible progress, fostering client confidence in the agile process. This open communication mirrors real-world agile environments, where frequent feedback ensures that products evolve according to user needs.

By maintaining continuous communication, the team cultivated a collaborative environment that encouraged shared ownership and accountability. This proved to be very vital to the success of the SNHU Travel application and demonstrated the practical benefits of agile communication principles.

Organizational tools and scrum events played a big part in structuring the team’s workflow. Agile tools such as Jira and task boards were simulated to manage tasks, visualize workflows, and track sprint progress. These tools aligned with scrum’s emphasis on transparency, inspection, and adaptation. During sprint planning, the product owner and team collaborated to select backlog items for each iteration. The visual boards allowed the team to estimate workload using story points. This promoted realistic sprint commitments while avoiding overloading team members and ensured consistent delivery.

The daily scrum helped maintain short feedback loops. By answering three key questions: what was done yesterday, what will be done today, and what obstacles exist. This event was valuable during code integration stages, when dependencies could easily cause delays. Sprint reviews functioned as mini milestones where the team demonstrated working increments of the application. These sessions encouraged stakeholder feedback, ensuring that the product continued to evolve. Finally, the sprint retrospectives served as the foundation for continuous improvement. The team identified communication gaps, documentation inconsistencies, and testing delays as key areas for improvement. For the next sprint, implement clearer task descriptions and timeboxing for backlog refinement. This led to efficient gains and fewer setbacks.

Together, these organizational tools and scrum principles created a structured yet flexible environment that supported collaboration, transparency, and iterative improvement.

The scrum agile approach presented numerous advantages during the SNHU Travel project. First, flexibility was a major strength. The team could adapt to new requirements, integrate stakeholder feedback, and reprioritize work without derailing the project timeline. Second, collaboration was enhanced through structured events and constant communication, resulting in higher morale and accountability. Third, incremental delivery provided stakeholders with tangible progress, fostering trust and engagement throughout development. Lastly, risk reduction was achieved by testing and integrating features continuously rather than at the end of the life cycle.

However, the agile approach was not without its challenges. Time management was initially difficult, as team members had to adjust to frequent meetings and iterative cycles. Additionally, scope creep was a potential risk when new requirements emerged mid-sprint. Finally, the reliance on team collaboration meant that productivity could suffer if any member was disengaged or unclear about responsibilities.

Despite the challenges that were faced, the scrum agile approach proved to be highly effective for the SNHU Travel project. The flexibility, communication, and iterative nature of scrum provided a development environment that encouraged innovation and responsiveness. The project’s success demonstrated that agile practices can significantly enhance productivity and product quality. Especially when teams embrace the core principles of collaboration and transparency.

In conclusion, given the positive outcomes of the SNHU Travel project. It is recommended that ChadaTech continue transitioning its development teams to the agile methodology. The sprint review and retrospective clearly demonstrated the tangible benefits of adopting a scrum agile approach. Showcasing how well-defined roles, iterative user story completion, adaptive handling, and strong team communication can lead to a product that balances technical excellence with customer value. Organizational tools and scrum events supported transparency, while retrospectives fostered ongoing improvement and team cohesion.

Although challenges such as documentation gaps and time management arose, the overall experience validated that agile methodologies significantly enhance software development outcomes. To ensure company-wide success, ChadaTech should prioritize proper agile training. This would include cultural alignment and a gradual rollout of scrum practices. By embracing flexibility, collaboration, and continuous growth. ChadaTech can cultivate a culture of innovation and deliver sustainable success across all its software development initiatives.