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 CS 250   
 October 20, 2025

Agile Reflection

For many years, ChadaTech functioned under the Waterfall paradigm. While productive, it severely hampered growth. We always had a very long plan but not much room to move. When we transitioned to Agile for the SNHU Travel project, everything changed. I became the Scrum Master and learned how much better the work could be when everyone’s thoughts were valuable. According to *The Scrum Guide* (Scrum Alliance, 2020), the Scrum Master’s main job is to ensure that everyone follows Agile precepts and to clear blockages that slow progress. This was my goal, keeping the team organized and assuring that each sprint stayed on target.

The Product Owner worked with SNHU Travel and came back with what the client truly needed. This made the work much more meaningful because we were developing real features with real goals. The Developers accomplished those goals sprint after sprint, working together to build small, functional prototypes of the app that were enhanced when feedback was received. There was little of the hierarchy that existed in Waterfall. Everyone was equal, and everyone’s job meant something. The synergy between the Scrum Master, Product Owner, and Developers was a great boost to the project and made the team strong.

The greatest improvement came in the way user stories were handled. Everything moved faster and became more user-focused in Agile. We decided not to wait until the end to show results but to break the project into smaller pieces. Each sprint had concrete user stories focused on specific parts of the project. This made it easier to show progress and change direction along the way. *The Scrum Guide* (Scrum Alliance, 2020) states that each sprint should yield a working increment of product that could be delivered if necessary, and that is exactly what we did. Each sprint provided SNHU Travel with something tangible to review, which built their trust and kept us on track.

For example, we began with simple user stories such as login setup and travel search filters. After finishing these, we added additional features like booking options. Each sprint ended with a functional result, which motivated the team to continue improving. Receiving client feedback early helped us avoid wasted effort. Rather than guessing what they wanted, we knew, because they saw our progress each time. This made the work more focused and rewarding.

Like any real project, ours was not perfect. Shortly after we began development, SNHU Travel requested a new feature to help manage bookings. In previous projects, the Waterfall model would have turned this into a major setback, likely requiring us to restart an entire phase. But with Agile, we could adapt easily. We discussed the change during our sprint review meeting, added it to the backlog, and planned it for the next sprint. This did not disrupt development because Agile is designed to handle change. The team stayed calm, shifted priorities, and kept going.

This illustrates the power of the Agile method. Rather than viewing change as an annoyance, we saw it as a chance to improve the final product. That is not something Waterfall handles well. The client appreciated how quickly we made adjustments, which built greater trust. Through Agile we gained confidence that no change was too large to derail us.

Communication was the element that tied everything together. We held short daily stand-ups in which everyone shared what they had done, what they were doing, and any problems that had arisen. This made the project feel alive and active. No one was left wondering what others were doing. Sprint reviews were another highlight where we demonstrated what we had accomplished and obtained feedback from the Product Owner, keeping our progress aligned with client expectations.

At the end of each sprint, we held a retrospective meeting to discuss what was completed and what went well or not so well, so improvements could be made in future sprints. These meetings built honesty and trust among the team. For example, one sprint lasted longer than expected, so we discussed ways to manage smaller tasks in the future. These small adjustments kept us improving every time. Agile is not merely a set of tools and meetings but a culture of teamwork and communication.

We used tools and Scrum events to create clarity in our workflow. A shared Kanban board allowed everyone to see real-time progress. Each card represented a task or user story, moving from “To Do” to “In Progress” to “Done.” This visual layout kept everyone accountable and informed. We relied on sprint planning meetings to set goals and decide what to deliver next. These events closely followed Scrum principles, allowing our team to stay structured yet flexible.

Sprint reviews and retrospectives were especially valuable. They helped us recognize what we were doing well and what we needed to improve. Using digital tools such as Trello and Slack made remote collaboration easier. Everyone knew the project status and their responsibilities. The closer we stayed to the Scrum process, the smoother things became.

Agile was exactly what this project required. Its greatest benefit was flexibility. We could change course easily and create results sooner. The client was involved from start to finish, which helped build confidence and avoid surprises. Seeing real-time progress every few weeks boosted motivation and resulted in steady growth as a team.

There were challenges, of course. Agile required more communication and coordination than we were used to. It demanded intense focus and teamwork, which could sometimes be exhausting. Still, the advantages far outweighed the drawbacks. For a project like SNHU Travel, where demands could shift suddenly, Agile was the perfect fit. It enabled ChadaTech to create a better product while improving the overall process by working smarter and faster. Agile also gave us a new perspective. It is more than a process; it is a state of mind.

The Scrum-Agile approach transformed how we worked at ChadaTech for the better. It made us faster, more open, and more unified as a team. We learned to communicate and adapt rather than rigidly follow a predetermined plan. As Scrum Master, I saw firsthand how Agile created an atmosphere where everyone’s input was valued and progress never stopped. The SNHU Travel project proved that Agile leads to better products and stronger teams. If ChadaTech continues to use Agile across all projects, we will deliver faster and create software that truly satisfies clients. Agile does not simply improve work; it helps people work better together.

References

Scrum Alliance. (2020). *The Scrum Guide: The definitive guide to Scrum – The rules of the game.* Scrum Alliance and Scrum.org. <https://scrumguides.org/>