**Final Project:  
Sprint Review and Retrospective**

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**Final Project**

Building a comprehensive project such as a travel website is not a task that can be as easy, but due to a great team that aligned ourselves to the agile methodology to great effect, we were able to successfully complete our project and even exceed what we thought we would be able to accomplish.

From the onset, our Product Owner did an extraordinary job of setting tone and making sure we all stayed on the same page at a very consistent page. He did this by ensuring that every stakeholder and every member of our team shared the same vision, constantly managed and kept the whole team focused on the same end goal.

When feedback facilitated that we changed from a travel site to focus more on wellness and holistic healing, our Product Owner ensured that this transition was handled remarkably by making sure all departments worked together to review all changes that this different approach would necessitate.

Ensuring that we all adhered to our scrum framework was my role as a Scrum Master. Several times during this project, we ran the risk of going off track, but due to my ability to be effective in my role, we were able to move through several challenges that occurred from time to time during our sprint. By facilitating daily standups, we were able to maintain effective communication that helped us all keep track as the scale of the project kept increasing. This collaborative environment that I was fortunate enough to foster, allowed us to be creative and allowed us to transition successfully to the wellness pivot we were required to meet.

Our incredible development team had the critical task of taking the project ideas and translating that into the code that created our site. As the creative machine in the agile methodology, they were tasked with modifying the website once the decision was handed down to change to a wellness-detox website. This facilitated that our development team work closely with the testing team to take their feedback into developing the changes that were required to render our newly designed and reformatted website.

Without a testing team, they performed the crucial step of testing the work that the development team created. It was through their feedback that we were able to screen out all the major bugs and allow us to go through stringent testing.

Due to the iterative development process of the SDLC methodology, each user story generated for each feature helped us break down the overall project into smaller, manageable units. It also afforded us the opportunity to ensure that we were able to focus on the most pertinent task based on the user stories, allowing us to properly align our time and resources on what was needed the most. One of the user stories necessitated that we include the option for the site to track down user location automatically, it was immediately placed to the top of our backlog and became a feature that helped make the browsing experience, a very pleasant one for our clients.

When the direction of the website initially shifted from a travel site to what we have now, which is the wellness site, it caused a bit of commotion, but this is where agile approach shined the most. By adhering to the agile methodology, we were able to reprioritize our backlog to accommodate the change which involved us deciding which assets could be reused, and the effective way to ensure that all team members communicated constantly to ensure the same goal.

As a Scrum Master that understands the absolute premium that communication affords us all, I constantly made sure that we stayed up to date on all matters regardless of whether we viewed it as a big or small matter. A great example of this came during our transition to a “Wellness” site. Our developers were struggling initially due to the complete change of approach initially, to which my response was to institute daily standups and have the development team break up into smaller teams utilizing the “Two Pizza Approach” from Amazon. This kept communication flowing and allowed the smaller team to handle each task with great efficiency and accuracy.

For our team, JIRA and Microsoft Teams ended up being two organizational tools that helped us cross the finish line in the end. With JIRA, we were able to manage our ever-growing backlog by keeping up to date with tickets based on feedback from testers and our stakeholders. Utilizing Teams, we were able to have our daily standups which aided us greatly in our ability to maintain a healthy communicative environment.

Adaptability, respecting each other, and a commitment to excellence ended up being the Scrum Principles that benefited our team the most. While the Scrum Principles runs the risk of sounding like a bulletin board material that we all typically brush over, it ended up being a real life great value for us, as it become the guiding principle that allowed us to be a great team that was able to handle last minute changes without any problems while still meeting our deadline.

 Although our entire team are sold on the agile methodology due to its pros such as its flexibility, and it’s incredible ability to allow us to effectively reduce our backlog and its ability to allow for smaller and incremental releases, which allowed us to push out approved changes in a quicker and more efficient manner, the methodology is not without its flaws. For one, while its adaptability is a huge plus, it can also be extremely difficult to manage, and tends to be too reliant on communication from other team members, as the methodology necessitates a consistent communicative environment.

Despite those limited cons however, the entire team endorses the Scrum-Agile approach, as in the end, it allowed us to accommodate all the changes that our ever changing and evolving project required. When the shift from travel to wellness was enacted, it was through the agile methodology that we were able to handle the changes flawlessly. This truly ended up being the best approach for our team, and it is a methodology that we plan on sticking to, as it affords us the flexibility and scalabilities needed to work efficiently.