Final Project

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The four major roles of our Scrum-agile team are the Scrum Master, which I was delegated as. The Product Owner, the tester, and developers. As the Scrum Master I made sure that we had our daily Scrum meetings, and they lasted the 15 minutes each time. This allowed for great communication and for each team member to talk about all the things they were working on as well as any issues that they were having. This made things run a lot more smoothly and allowed me as Scrum Master to delegate different tasks based on the constant change that was going around me. The Product Owner was able to create a backlog of the user stories and was also in constant collaboration with the development team as a whole. The testers and developers were able to look at the backlog and be able to estimate which stories that they could get done in the allotted time period that we set. We decided to set a 6-week deadline for ourselves.

A Scrum-agile approach allowed for completion of the user stories because it simply allowed for great communication within the team. For instance, our developer was having issues with a task that they were delegated to. They brought it up during one of our Scrum meetings and as the Scrum master I was able to delegate our tester to help them with the task. I feel that during the whole process that our communication was the key ingredient in getting things done in our 6-week time period. As Scrum master I made sure that I was in constant contact with each of the team members to ensure that we met our deadline. It was key that each member was on the same page and knew what the other one was working on. This allowed us to break things into smaller tasks that made each member never feel overwhelmed. Overall, without the Scrum-agile approach we would have never finished in our allotted time period.

During the third week things started to slow down on a production level and it seemed as if we may not meet the deadline. We had to change directions and delegate different taks to different people. During one of our meetings, as Scrum Master, I saw that the developer was overwhelmed with everything that was going on. They voiced their concerns and asked for help. I decided to step up myself and took on some of their workload for myself. This made us get right back on track and ensured that we met our deadline. Again, I can’t emphasize how important good communication is. Well, this was our strong suit. I made sure as Scrum Master that each member felt comfortable with one another as to make sure that they would feel comfortable voicing any concerns that came up and so we could go in a different direction.

From the beginning I took my role as Scrum Master very seriously. I wanted to make sure that each member of the team felt comfortable with me as well as with one another. This was done through communication. The daily Scrum meetings were crucial. I allowed during the end of the meeting for any member to talk about anything they wanted when it came to finishing the user stories. Somedays, it was all positive and there were no speedbumps. On other days multiple team members would be struggling and ask for support. I immediately came to action and devised a plan to ensure our deadline was met. First, I would ask if they felt they could finish the task on their own or if they felt too overwhelmed. On most instances they felt they could complete it on their own but there were a few when they needed the extra help or to change tasks with someone completely. This was all done through clear and constant communication as well as having a clear plan of action and sticking to it.

Obviously, the Scrum Meetings was our best organizational tools. It not only allowed for the members to talk to one another but also allowed a visualization of the work we had completed and the work we still had to do. We also used estimation techniques of Agile to ensure that we met our deadline. This was crucial because it allowed us to constantly be aware of if we were on task or if we were falling behind. It is crucial that the estimation techniques are on-point and I took that very seriously as Scrum Master. We also voted on things during meetings. For instance, we were falling behind during week 3 and we had a vote on what we needed to do to get back on task. After the votes came in, it was clear that our estimation was a little off and that we needed to delegate more time to specific tasks. By having a voting system, it also allowed each member to feel as if everyone was on the same level. That is to say that no one was better than another person.

I would have to say that the biggest pro of this approach is that it breaks things down into smaller teams. This allows for better communication between the teams as well as being able to break the work down into smaller categories to ensure know one feels overwhelmed. Also, the springs allow for a very quick turnaround. I feel that the only con to this experience was that our team was very small. Having a small team can put a lot of pressure to ensure that the estimated timeframe is met. It always helps to have a bigger team to be able to delegate the different tasks better. We definitely made the best of it and made the expression “small but mighty” true. One member of our team was not familiar with the approach we were using and that took a little time to get them familiarized with what was expected from them working within the team. I guess this could also be considered a con, but again it can be easily fixed with good communication and by simply working as a team. Overall, there are way more pros than cons and therefore this approach is used so much.

I definitely feel that the Scrum-agile approach was the best for the SNHU travel project and that they should continue to use it in the future. It allowed for the team to be in constant contact with one another and to express concerns as things came up. Without using this approach, the task at hand would have been made way more difficult and I definitely feel that we would not have met our deadline. Again, there are way more pros than cons when using this approach and I feel that our team was successful in proving that.