Sprint Review and Retrospective

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The SNHU Travel Project has found success in utilizing a Scrum-Agile approach. The different roles in scrum, completion of user stories, effective handling of interruptions, communication, and use of project management tools all assist in driving the project forward while keeping the team productive and aligned with business goals. Through this review, we will highlight the effectiveness of the Scrum-Agile approach in achieving the goals of the SNHU Travel Project.

The contribution of each role in a Scrum-Agile team directly affects the success of any project. The three roles consist of a product owner, scrum master, and developer. The goal of the product owner is to increase the value of the product by communicating with the stakeholders and adjusting the product backlog to align with new goals based on feedback. The product owner also communicates with the team to clarify misunderstandings. The scrum master facilitates scrum events like sprint planning, daily stand-ups, sprint reviews, and sprint retrospectives. The scrum master also contributes to creating a collaborative environment by mentoring, coaching, and teaching the team Scrum rules and techniques to support individual growth within an Agile framework. And finally, the developers work together and focus on completing backlog items, turning them into functional features. They also work with the scrum master to verify they are following Scrum techniques and rules while working with the product owner to verify their work is within stakeholder expectations. With the collaboration of the product owner, scrum master, and developer, a successful team will foster a successful deliverable.

The software development lifecycle includes bringing ideas to life. A user story is a software feature described from the point of view of the end user. It shows the most basic reason for a feature existing, its benefit, and what defines it, this helps the developer know what to code. The product owner collects requirements and user stories from stakeholders and puts them into the product backlog. The product backlog is made up of user stories and the structure of a Scrum-Agile environment brings user stories to completion in each sprint iteration. Each sprint iteration focuses on a group of user stories that are manageable for the team to complete. After the developers complete the user stories they are showcased to the stakeholders during the sprint review for feedback, then refinements are addressed, and the user story becomes a useable valuable feature. The user story also has an acceptance criteria which describes the scope of work that defines “done.” This specification keeps developers on track within a given sprint timeline. This process describes how user stories are brought to life in a Scrum-Agile team.

A Scrum-Agile methodology handles interruptions in a unique fashion while being flexible to oncoming changes. When communication is constant and new feedback arrives, there may be changes in expectations and the workload. When these changes occur the Scrum-Agile framework handles them with adaptability to avoid derailment of progress. The process of reprioritizing the backlog and decomposing large concepts makes new expectations manageable for the team to complete these features while meeting the original sprint objectives and time box. Interruptions in a Scrum-Agile framework are handled with adaptability and flexibility to keep the team on track.

The most important part of a Scrum environment is effective communication. Scrum events like the daily stand up allow team members to communicate in a safe environment their goals, challenges, and plans. This type of daily communication allows team members to update their peers, and address issues together if needed. For example, if a team member came across an issue implementing filtering destinations in the SNHU Travel Project then at the next daily stand-up they can express that, and other team members can chime in at this time to overcome this obstacle. Collaboration among team members creates an environment with accountability and autonomy to complete goals within given time restraints and within stakeholder expectations.

Besides the structure of a Scrum-Agile framework and the collaboration of a team, the organizational tools used to manage the project assist in the success of the team and project goals. Backlog management like Jira allows everyone in the team to have a visual of the workflow and progress. It also can assign tasks and set deadlines. Tools like Jira enhance the effectiveness of the Scrum-Agile framework because it aligns with Scrum principles. Scrum events serve as organizational tools to keep the team aligned. Sprint planning works along tools like Jira to prioritize the backlog and decompose user stories. Project management tools and Scrum events work together to develop a successful environment for deliverables to come to life.

The SNHU Travel Project had a goal to deliver a travel booking site to draw in new customers while offering personalized destination options. Utilizing a Scrum-Agile approach during this process offered advantages like incremental delivery and flexibility. Contributing deliverables within each sprint offers new features regularly. New features come with new feedback and requirements, which can be a drawback to this framework. Because agile encourages adaptability, having the flexibility to overcome new challenges or requirements is a benefit to this framework. Unfortunately, with new requirements frequent changes can sometimes lead to scope creep if not managed properly. Another problem with this framework is the unpredictability of timelines. Because of the iterative nature of Scrum, it may be hard to provide an exact timeline for completion of a project. The Scrum-Agile approach was the best approach for the SNHU Travel Project because the stakeholders are actively involved in the development process of the booking site. Their involvement keeps the team aligned with their expectations of the project. Any changes they may need will be addressed and implemented based on work value. A Scrum-Agile approach mitigates risk while staying on track to deliver the product that the client needs.