**Module 7 Sprint Review and Retrospective**

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Being tasked with creating an application for SNHU Travel, we decided to take an agile approach. As a stark shift from the waterfall approach, we had to adapt and learn how to be agile. With that we had to break down the team into specific roles. This consisted of 5 parts of the team, the Scrum Master, Product Owner, Tester, Developer, and the Client. Starting with the scrum master Ron. Ron did a great job at assembling the team and put the best people in the correct roles to make agile successful. He made sure to be a great facilitator for our scrum events. He kept the events on point and didn’t let the daily stand-up wander. Next, we had our product owner Christy. Christy did an excellent job of interpreting the requirements provided by the client and relaying that information to Ron so that the backlog is accurate and up to date. She also did a commendable job at setting priorities on the requirements to help us be most effective with development. Additionally, Christy increased the quality of our application by organizing a user focus group to gain insight into what the user may want from our product and converted that data into user stories that were then added to the product backlog with the appropriate priorities. Following Christy we have Brian the tester. Brian was great on this project. He made sure to work closely with Christy and the developer to ensure that his test cases were validating what the dev and the customer were wanting. He was a great communicator and asked for what he needed and clearly conveyed any issues that were found through testing. Most importantly he worked very hard with Christy to ensure that he understood the requirements so as to create accurate test criteria. Next, we had Nicky as a developer on the project. Nicky did great to keep putting out code that worked as to keep up with the changing requirements. She communicated well and worked hard to pivot and adapt with the changing application requirements. Finally, we had Amanda as our client. She did great to come up with reasonable and tangible requirements that we could use to start working from. Additionally, she was clear and up front on the time constraints for this project allowing us to prioritize and execute effectively.

The structure provided in a scrum agile approach was critical in making user stories come to fruition. Everyone on the team knows their job and simply must execute. The product owner created user stories and added them to the backlog. The dev and tester work off the backlog. It is a simple straightforward structure that keeps everyone on the same page and synchronized in effort. Additionally, within the same agile structure, we see that when requirements about the project changed the team was able to quickly incorporate these changes to the plan and the project without moving any deadlines. This was because the product owner was effective at making user storied and updating the backlog. The dev instantly sees the updated backlog and all is discussed at the daily scrum. This ensured transparency and effective communication that enabled re-prioritization and execution without delay.

With Agile communication is detrimental. Here is an example of communication that I utilized while assuming the role of a tester.

Christy,

Good afternoon, I am working on the user stories from yesterday’s meeting and I have found that I need some additional information to better create actionable items.

* Where on GUI do we want the filters to go?
* Should all the filters be based on a check box?
* Should the filter section be large or a small drop down?
* Should destination recommendations be on the home screen?
* Should destination recommendations be on the own screen that can be reached by clicking a recommendations button?

Please let me know what you can find out.

Thanks,

Austin

With the above communication, I stayed within the role of tester and relied on the product owner to source the information that I needed. I was clear and concise and was polite and respectful as to be as effective as possible to keep the project moving. Next, I have an example of the communication I used while in the role of developer.

Christy,

I have started to work the backlog and I and the team have noticed that we made a major miscalculation. It appears that we will need to dramatically change our course of action to make this project a reality. We are very sorry for this oversight, but we feel strongly that this is essential for the success of this project.

Best Regards,

Austin

In this communication I quickly relay an issue to the product owner and to stay transparent and up to date. This way we can take whatever course of action is needed to stay on track and knock out the project. This keeps everyone on the same page and opens up the whole team to have a chance to help and problem solve.

I believe that we were successful in this project due to the agile scrum framework. Everyone had a role and knew what was expected of them. Most importantly we executed daily scrum and effective sprint planning to ensure we are working up to date with requirements. Additionally, we utilized backlog refinement which kept us accurate in our priorities. This kept our project moving at a lighting pace.

Overall, the Scrum-agile approach was effective in this project. The pros included that everyone knew their role, the structure kept us on task, we were able to pivot with the changes. On the cons, we spent a notable amount of time in meetings for the size of the project. The requirements only changed one time and they were small enough that it may not have been too troublesome if we had used waterfall. However, these are not things that can be foreseen at the start of the project. Agile offers a much better structure to mitigate the unforeseen. That is why I think it is absolutely the correct approach for this project. I would rather have it and not need it, as oppose to needing it and not having it.