CS 250 Final Project Sprint Review and Retrospective

Britany Scogland

April 17th, 2021

Beginning in January of this year, my team at Chada Tech was selected to participate in a trial of using Scrum-agile principles when completing the work for a new customer product. These new principles involved selecting and assigning team members to perform specific roles, some of which would be a new role to them. This challenge also included creating user stories and a product backlog of features to meet those stories, assigning those features out to specific development teams, and being able to adjust to customer requests for changes. Communication was extremely important during this trial, not only about the project, but also to gain feedback about this new way of working and to ensure all team members are able to complete their role. Lastly, we were given access to several organization tools that helped the team stay organized and provide updates to each teams progress, keeping both management and the customer happy.

Overall, I believe that with proper planning and support from management, Chada Tech would excel by implementing the Scrum-agile principles into all teams in the company.

When completing the SNHU travel project, there were various roles present on the team, and each member contributed to the success of the project. First, there was the Product Owner, and she was the main point of the contact with customer to gain the user stories. Then there was the Scrum Master, and he created the product backlog and managed the teams, he also led the daily standups and review meetings. The developers were responsible for creating the product, per the user stories, and the testers then tested the product to ensure it met all the requirements. Lastly, we used an external agile coach to help coach each team member on their role and to answer any questions we had. With each team member fulfilling their role expertly, we were able to successfully complete the product.

In order to make each user story come to completion, we used the Scrum-agile approach. Once the Product Owner had obtained the user stories, and the Scrum Master had a chance to get as many details about the user stories as he saw necessary, the decided how to prioritize the features of the product and created the product backlog. We then had a meeting to assign features to each development team for our first sprint. As each development team finished their feature, they then sent it to the testing team to review the product, get feedback, and use that feedback to complete the feature. At the end of each sprint, we had a sprint review meeting to cover what was completed and what still needed to be completed.

As you might expect, the customer wanted to make changes to the product during the middle of the project. The Product Owner met with the customer and learned about the new requirements. She then met with the Scrum Master and they reprioritized the features and product backlog. They then held a meeting with all the teams and discussed the updated user stories. Since we were almost complete in a sprint, we finished the sprint we were working on, and then we shifted to be able to work on the new priorities. The shorter sprints allowed us to be flexible and shift priorities, without derailing the entire project. We did not have to scrap any work, we only needed to modify some of the work that we had already done.

Communication was extremely important when working in teams dedicated to certain pieces of the user stories. Here is an example of an email showing great feedback and questions from one of my testers.

Dear Product Owner Britany,

I have a few questions about the user story that we just changed. The notes I took state that the customer wants the product to feature detox vacations. First, would they like the main page to only show detox vacation packages or just to prioritize them to the top of the suggested vacation packages? Second, would they like detox vacation to be one of the options for a filter on the page, and what other filters would they like to have?

Dear Tester Bob,

Thank you for your questions. I have reached out to the customer and they have stated that they would like Detox Vacation packages to default to be the top vacation packages when the webpage opens. The also stated they want filters to include detox, cruise, tropical, mountains, and historical as the filter options.

In order to keep our team organized, we decided to use Version One as an agile organizational tool. This tool had many features that were very useful to the team, and even supported the Scrum principles. We used the team-level workflows to monitor each team’s progress and created team rooms and planning rooms to use for the teams that were working remotely to be able to still partner well with the teams on site. A great feature of this tool was the analytics and reporting that not only allowed management to be able to monitor our progress, but we were able to share those reports with the customers for progress updates, a feature they very much appreciated.

Overall, our team felt that they really enjoyed getting to try the Scrum-agile approach to working on this product. Where there were some bumps in the road when we first got started as each person was trying to adjust, in the end all team members enjoyed the flexibility, communication, and freedom within the framework to complete their pieces of the project. The team was able to complete the product on time, even with the customer making changes and new requests.