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CS250 Final Project

## **Sprint Review and Retrospective: Enhancing Agile Success with SNHU Travel**

In the journey to embrace Agile methodologies, ChadaTech embarked on a transformative process, transitioning from a traditional waterfall model to the Scrum-agile approach. This endeavor was initiated by a small team with the ambitious task of developing an application for SNHU Travel, a travel agency aiming to expand its horizons with innovative customer tools. The Scrum Master, embodying the role of a guide and facilitator, spearheaded the team's adoption of agile principles and orchestrated their progression through key Scrum events. The success of the SNHU Travel project can be attributed to the contributions of each distinct role within the team, demonstrating the collaborative power of the Scrum-agile framework.

Communication lies at the heart of Agile, and the SNHU Travel project was no exception. The Product Owner, representing the voice of the customer, provided a clear compass in the form of user stories, which outlined the application's functionalities and features. In a pivotal role, the Development Team translated these narratives into actionable tasks, crafting the application's blueprint. Guided by these user stories, the team huddled together during Sprint Planning sessions to define sprint goals and plan their course of action. Daily Scrums encouraged collaboration, allowing team members to synchronize their efforts, discuss progress, and collectively troubleshoot challenges. Backlog Refinement served as a compass, ensuring a clear understanding of upcoming work and paving the way for efficient sprint planning. The Scrum

Master's careful deliberation of these events created an environment where effective communication thrived, and team members were able to make informed decisions. One particularly notable example of this communication was the email correspondence initiated by the Scrum Master, seeking clarifications from the Product Owner on key user story details. This proactive communication not only showcased the Scrum Master's dedication to understanding requirements but also fostered a culture of transparency and team work.

A second example of communication was when the Product Owner diverted the project's direction through user stories that explained the desired application functionalities. A particularly pivotal moment in this communication-rich ecosystem was when the Product Owner switched from a conventional list format to a slideshow, adding a layer of engaging interaction for the end user. This transition was motivated by a deep understanding of industry trends which was management's directive to explore health and wellness vacations. To gather user stories reflecting these trends, the Scrum Master initiated an email campaign of transparent dialogue with potential users and aligning the team with customer desires.

While Agile principles enriched daily interactions, their influence goes into the realm of development and project management tools. JIRA emerged as a crucial asset, embodying the Agile value of adaptability. By centralizing task management and promoting real-time collaboration, JIRA empowered the team to manage its work effectively. Customizable workflows made sure that the tool conformed to the team's needs, leading to efficient sprint planning, execution, and tracking. Beyond the technical realm, Scrum events served as the pillars of Agile execution. Sprint Reviews provided a platform for the team to showcase completed work, inviting stakeholders' input and validating the product's progress. Sprint Retrospectives,

another cornerstone event, facilitated collective introspection, empowering the team to identify areas of improvement and to move towards excellence.

Inevitably, projects are not immune to disruptions or shifts in direction. The Scrum-agile approach exhibited its resilience in the face of such challenges. The flexibility of Agile methodologies allowed the team to adapt swiftly when the project's trajectory was altered. The Scrum events, particularly Sprint Reviews and Daily Scrums, acted as strategic communication checkpoints, enabling the team to identify shifts in priorities and adjust accordingly. This agility was underscored in the Scrum Master's email communications seeking clarifications when project specifications needed adjustments. By continuously seeking feedback and fostering transparent conversations, the team could seamlessly incorporate changes without compromising the project's integrity or momentum.

In assessing the effectiveness of the Scrum-agile approach for the SNHU Travel project, the outcomes highlighted the benefits of this methodology. Possible benefits of the switch in methodology included enhanced flexibility, which permitted the team to adapt to changing requirements in real-time, and a culture of transparency that made collaboration hold a much higher value. The development cycle facilitated by Scrum events enabled the team to deliver incremental value, aligning closely with SNHU Travel's ever changing needs and desires. However, the transition was not devoid of challenges; the team struggled with an initial learning curve as they shifted from the waterfall approach. Nonetheless, the collaborative atmosphere and adaptability of the Scrum-agile approach guided the project towards success.

In retrospect, the adoption of the Scrum-agile approach for the SNHU Travel project was undoubtedly a fantastic decision. The methodology's focus on communication, transparency, and

continuous progress proved vital in developing an understandable and robust application. The team's various roles contributed to the project's accomplishment, while the Scrum events and management tools provided the necessary structure for agile execution. Through email communication, strategic planning, and continuous adaptation, the project demonstrated the potency of Agile principles in action. The Scrum-Agile approach's effectiveness for the SNHU Travel development project was not only in the completed product but also in the enriched team dynamics, encouraging a widespread culture of collaboration, adaptability, and continuous improvement.