**Final Project: Retrospective**

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Navigating through the Agile and Scrum methodologies, our team embarked on the exhilarating journey of developing the SNHU Travel application. Transitioning from a rigid Waterfall model to an iterative and adaptable Agile approach provided a dynamic and challenging experience, unveiling multiple facets of team collaboration, project management, and software development.

Each role within our Scrum team brought unique value and perspective to the project. As the Scrum Master, I steered the team towards adherence to Scrum practices, mitigating obstacles such as technical hindrances and ensuring smooth sprint cycles. For instance, facilitating a brainstorming session to resolve challenges faced by developers during the implementation of a user-friendly interface was pivotal in keeping the sprint on track.

The Product Owner crafted well-defined and prioritized user stories, ensuring the alignment of development efforts with customer needs. A notable instance was the prioritization of user stories related to payment and ticket generation during the development of the flight booking feature, ensuring alignment with customer expectations and project goals.

Developers showcased adaptability and technical prowess, iteratively developing and refining functionalities. The initial implementation of the vacation package booking feature was enhanced and optimized across sprints, culminating in a user-friendly and efficient feature.

Testers played a crucial role in maintaining quality standards and ensuring the developed features were robust and reliable. Their proactive approach was exhibited when a critical bug was identified and rectified during the development of the notification system, ensuring a seamless user experience.

The adoption of Scrum facilitated an approach towards user stories, enabling gradual refinement of functionalities through prioritization and feedback incorporation. The vacation package booking functionality, for example, evolved from a basic implementation to an optimized and intuitive feature across sprints, substantiating the benefits of an iterative development approach.

The project encountered significant hurdles, such as an abrupt change in the API being integrated. The agility afforded by Scrum enabled swift adaptation, allowing reprioritization of the backlog and incorporation of necessary changes without jeopardizing the project, showcasing the methodology's capability in managing unplanned deviations effectively.

Utilizing daily stand-ups facilitated continuous communication and collaboration. A critical instance of effective communication was observed when a late-sprint bug was rapidly addressed through collective discussion and collaborative problem-solving via the team chat, safeguarding the sprint’s objectives.

The utilization of Jira for managing sprints and backlogs ensured transparent and aligned team operations. Sprint planning sessions and retrospectives afforded clear goal definitions and continuous improvement, respectively. For example, retrospective feedback from the initial sprint resulted in the allocation of a “buffer” for unforeseen issues in subsequent sprints, enhancing execution efficiency.

The Scrum-agile approach presented notable advantages such as adaptability, continuous feedback, and iterative development. However, the initial transition from a pre-planned approach to an adaptive one presented challenges and minor disruptions within the team. Despite initial hurdles, the Scrum-agile methodology proved instrumental in navigating through project complexities and uncertainties, ensuring a harmonious blend of timely delivery and quality in the SNHU Travel application.

**References**

Reflecting on the SNHU Travel project, the Scrum-agile approach provided a flexible, adaptive, and collaborative framework, enabling the team to navigate through complexities and deliver a quality application. The experiences and insights gained through this journey have been invaluable, shaping practices and methodologies that will be leveraged in future projects, ultimately fostering a culture of continuous improvement and customer-centric development.