**FINAL PROJECT**

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The Scrum-Agile Team for the SNHU Travel project consisted of the Product Owner, Scrum Master, developers, and testers. The Product Owner was essential in defining the product backlog and prioritizing features based on business value and stakeholder input. For example, when a major client requested a feature for experience preference types, the Product Owner ensured it was prioritized and clearly defined in the backlog. As the Scrum Master, I facilitated Scrum events, removed impediments, and coached the team in Agile practices. The Development Team collaborated on designing, developing, and testing the product incrementally, ensuring efficient and high-quality development. This collaborative approach allowed us to align closely with the project's goals and stakeholder expectations.

The Scrum-Agile approach was instrumental in completing user stories through iterative development and continuous feedback. One example is the “User preference” settings, which went through multiple iterations. This iterative approach allowed us to incorporate feedback early, ensuring the final product met user requirements and provided a positive user experience (Schwaber & Sutherland, 2020).

Interruptions and changes in direction were managed effectively through Scrum-Agile practices. Midway through the project, a significant stakeholder requested a change the focus of our top destination advertising from a generalized popularity to popularity focused on health and wellness. Utilizing the Scrum framework, we held an emergency backlog refinement session to re-prioritize the affected user stories and adjust our sprint goals accordingly. This session allowed the team to understand the new requirements, update the backlog, and plan the next sprint with the revised priorities. This flexibility ensured that the project stayed aligned with stakeholder expectations without derailing progress. The ability to quickly adapt to changes is a key strength of the Agile approach, allowing us to meet evolving requirements.

Effective communication was facilitated through various Scrum events and tools. Daily stand-ups allowed the team to synchronize efforts, discuss progress, and highlight any blockers. Sprint reviews provided a platform for showcasing completed work to stakeholders, with feedback leading to enhancements. Effective communication examples include detailed updates during stand-ups and clear presentations during sprint reviews (Denning, 2018). This open line of communication ensured that all team members and stakeholders were on the same page throughout the project.

Several organizational tools and Scrum-Agile principles contributed to our success. We used Jira for tracking user stories, tasks, and sprint progress. The burndown chart in Jira was particularly effective in visualizing our sprint progress and identifying potential delays. It helped the team stay focused on sprint goals and manage workload efficiently. The regular cadence of sprint planning, daily stand-ups, sprint reviews, and retrospectives ensured continuous improvement. These tools and events kept the team organized and focused, helping us to maintain steady progress.

The Scrum-Agile approach had several pros and cons for the SNHU Travel project. The iterative nature allowed for early and continuous delivery of valuable software, with stakeholder feedback incorporated continuously. However, the need for constant communication and meetings can sometimes feel burdensome, and the initial learning curve for new team members was steep. Additionally, the lack of detailed upfront planning occasionally led to challenges in managing scope and deadlines. Despite these challenges, the Agile approach was effective in delivering a high-quality product.

As we developed the SNHU Travel project, we also focused on writing and revising test cases to ensure the software met all user requirements. Developing detailed test cases for each user story helped us identify and resolve issues early. For instance, the test case for the "Top Five Destination List" user story included steps to verify the correct display of destination names, descriptions, pictures, and links. Revising these test cases based on feedback from the Product Owner and stakeholders ensured that all acceptance criteria were met, leading to a more reliable and user-friendly product.

The Agile team's flexibility and responsiveness were tested when new requirements were introduced. The Product Owner's ability to re-prioritize the backlog allowed the team to focus on the most important features first. For example, when the focus group suggested adding a feature to customize destination lists based on user profiles, this requirement was quickly integrated into the backlog and prioritized. The development team then adapted their plans to implement this feature, demonstrating the effectiveness of the Agile approach in handling changing requirements.

Overall, the Scrum-Agile approach proved to be the best methodology for the SNHU Travel project. The collaboration, flexibility, and continuous improvement inherent in Scrum-Agile practices led to a successful project outcome, meeting stakeholder expectations and delivering a valuable product incrementally. By adapting to changes, fostering effective communication, and utilizing robust organizational tools, the team was able to overcome challenges and deliver a high-quality solution. The Agile methodology's strengths in managing dynamic requirements and promoting stakeholder engagement were crucial to our success.

**Works Cited**

Denning, S. (2018). The age of agile: How smart companies are transforming the way work gets done. AMACOM. Retrieved from <https://www.amazon.com/Age-Agile-Companies-Transforming-Work/dp/0814439098>

Schwaber, K., & Sutherland, J. (2020). The Scrum Guide. Scrum.org. Retrieved from <https://www.scrumguides.org/scrum-guide.html>