**Sprint Retrospective**

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CS230 Software Development Life Cylce

Professor Konishi

June 18th, 2022

* **Demonstrate how the various roles on your Scrum-agile Team specifically contributed to the success of the SNHU Travel project**. Be sure to use specific examples from your experiences.

There are various roles on my Scrum-Agile team, each of whom is designated a set of responsibilities. The team roles are Product Owner, Scrum Master, Tester, and Developer, all of whom played a key role in the project’s development. The team’s ability to work together and communicate effectively with each other was not only a recipe for success, but also a major principle in the Scrum-Agile methodology.

The Product Owner engaged with the stakeholders and users of the project and ensured that the end consumers are getting the most functionality out of the software. Then he effectively communicated the importance of each feature and set a priority list on the product backlog for the team to review. The project’s focus was organized by the implementation of user stories, which were created by the product owner to relay to the rest of the team. As the Scrum Master, I oversaw sprint planning and backlog refinement. Sprint planning helped the team stay productive in concise and achievable goals. I met with the Product Owner to brainstorm sprint ideas well in advance. I also led the Daily Scrum meetings that helped the team stay on course of the product backlog, and we adjusted the backlog according to the development progress.

The tester utilized user stories to create the initial test cases for the developer to use as a functional goal. This helped the functionality implementation because the stories scored each user function by priority, and each story contained explicit details on a pass or fail requirement quota. For example, there were two stories that had a story size description of large, which indicated the impact for project requirements. Our tester was easily able to test for important software functionality first, increase development efficiency, and ensure accurate code was being implemented. The developer was tasked with a change in direction of the overall project. Although the Product Owner and I communicated clearly the newly found project requirements, the developer requested more information about the new functionality. Because the developer spoke out, we were able to get a detailed response from the client about the new functionality requirements. In the end our Scrum Agile team was able to finish the project on time and we delivered a fully functional project that met all the client’s expectations.

* **Describe how a Scrum-agile approach to the SDLC helped each of the user stories come to completion**. Be sure to use specific examples from your experiences.

The Scrum agile approach is what helped the team complete each of the user stories efficiently and accurately. With our daily scrum meetings, we were able to produce a well thought out product backlog and estimated development timeframe. We implemented the agile approach into our scrum meetings, where we worked on backlog refinement. Through consistent backlog refinement, we were able to make steady progress on project development and make any changes on the fly. A good example is when the client requested a change in the project direction. The Product Owner and I were quick to inform the developer and tester so we could make changes in the sprint direction instantly. Because of this agile approach, we delivered an excellent product and met our deadlines.

* **Describe how a Scrum-agile approach supported project completion when the project was interrupted and changed direction**. Be sure to use specific examples from your experiences.

The scrum agile approach promotes flexibility, and because of that we were able to change directions easily when the product owner asked to change some functionality of the product. Scrum development is not planned out in the beginning like other development methods, and therefore changes occur frequently. Because we have daily scrum meetings, it was a quick and effortless process to inform the developer of the requested changes and resume sprint development. Only minor changes were required to achieve the new functionality requirements. In our example, the team deprioritized some of the backlog items to make room for the newer and top priority items. Because of this, the timeline for our projected finish time was not changed. If we were not using agile methods, it would be much more difficult to change gears and the project deadline would be pushed back. With our Scrum Agile methods, we were able to adapt and keep the client happy with a functional project that was delivered on time.

* **Demonstrate your ability to communicate effectively with your team by providing samples of your communication**. Be sure to explain why your examples were effective in their context and how they encouraged collaboration among team members.

In module six I demonstrated a few examples of effective communication with my team. One example is when I asked my fellow teammate Ryan about how we could use his idea in our project and how it will benefit the project overall. Asking questions to get a better understanding of his mindset helped the team to understand what was being proposed and why. This was extremely important because it not only helped Ryan to go further in depth on his approach, but it makes the rest of the team trust that it is a method worth implementing in the project.

In module four I wrote to another team member, Rebekah, about her opinion on which principle should be incorporated into the project. I stated that we had quite different opinions, yet both of our ideas are highly effective in contributing to the efficiency of the project. This statement encourages my team to openly share their opinions during our meetings. I think it’s good to share opinions, respect others' opinions, and work together as a team to create a solution together. For future meetings our team will be better at gathering and sharing ideas to improve each sprint.

* **Evaluate the organizational tools and Scrum-agile principles that helped your team be successful**. Be sure to reference the Scrum events in relation to the effectiveness of the tools.

There are many tools and Scrum Agile principles that contribute to the success of the team. One organizational tool that is vital to the scrum process is the product backlog. This is where the features, bugs, and progress are posted for the team to know what work needs to be done. The product backlog is created by the Product Owner and Scrum Master and is the lead discussion topic of each daily scrum meeting. It is also a great tool that helps with the spring planning process.

Another tool that we used for our project is the Jira online collaboration tool where the team goes to organize their work and communicate what is happening during each stage of the development process. Jira can aid in the scrum process during daily scrum meetings and with team communication. The strength of Jira is that it organizes the team’s progress, tasks that need to be worked on, and tasks that are done, making it a perfect visual aid in the daily scrum meetings. It is a tool that is not necessary, but it played a big part in the team’s overall success of the implementation of agile principles into our project.

The Scrum Agile principles that helped our team’s success the most were prediction and adaptation. The agile development process is all about being flexible and able to conform to the customer’s changing needs. We achieved adaptation by running development in short sprints, keeping in communication with daily meetings, and embracing change into our project. With the combination of agile principles and valuable tools, we were able to develop successful and functional software for the client.

* **Assess the effectiveness of the Scrum-agile approach for the SNHU Travel project**. Be sure to address each of the following:
  + Describe the pros and cons that the Scrum-agile approach presented during the project.

Scrum Agile methods have many benefits such as project flexibility, development organization, time estimations, product backlog for sprint planning, and minimal code development. The agile principles that contributed to the success of the project also provide these advantages. Scrum meetings help with organization and product backlog refinement. Our testing and development process allows us to write more efficient and minimal code.

Along with the pros comes a few cons of the Scrum Agile approach to project development. Some of the cons include less planning time, more uncertainty in the initial stages of development, and a heavy reliance on communication/teamwork. With a fast changing and adaptive approach, the time that is spent planning with other approaches (such as the waterfall method) is instead focused on sprint development. The consequence of less planning is more uncertainty in the true direction of the project and overall development process. The agile method also relies heavily on communication between the Product Owner and the client, the Scrum Master and the developers/testers, and the daily meetings. Without communication, the flexibility and rapid development approach is rendered useless.

* + Determine whether or not a Scrum-agile approach was the best approach for the SNHU Travel development project.

The scrum agile approach was the best approach for the SNHU Travel development project because of its flexibility and efficiency. With other methods, such as the waterfall method, the development process requires much more time and planning. The change in direction of the client is a prime example of how useful the Scrum Agile method truly is. And the fact that we were still able to reach the project deadline is reflective of the importance of the agile development processes. Overall, the speed and efficiency of the Agile approach proved to be successful in our travel project.