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Software Development Lifecycle

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SNHU Travel Sprint Review and Retrospective

ChadaTech used a Scrum-agile approach to complete the SNHU Travel project. The agile team included a Product Owner, Scrum Master, developer, and tester. Each team member played a crucial role in the completion of the project. The Product Owner primarily managed the product backlog, including user stories, and was also the primary contact for the stakeholder. The Scrum Master was also involved in communicating with the stakeholders. The Scrum Master took it a step further and aided in guiding the team to complete the product backlog tasks to get the results that the stakeholders requested. The Scrum Master encouraged and implemented the Scrum Methodology by leading Scrum events, such as Sprint Planning, Daily Scrums, and Backlog Refinement. These events contributed to the developer and tester staying on track to complete the project in a timely manner and provided a collaborative environment. The developer and tester worked closely during each sprint. The developer coded tasks and provided polished code to the tester. The tester communicated issues and functionality concerns to the developer. Increased communication between all team members is one benefit from implementing an agile team.

Another benefit an agile team provides is using user stories to create a product that would reflect market needs. For the SNHU Travel project three people were interviewed to provide insight on what they wish to get from a travel website. Using this knowledge from market users, the Product Owner created user stories. During this process the Product Owner created a product backlog and prioritized the user requests. The user stories detailed what SNHU Travel needs to provide to meet market research requests. In a true Scrum-agile fashion, these user stories were passed downstream to the team members and allowed for any upstream feedback or Backlog refinements on tasks. Based on the user story template the tester was able to create test cases to ensure the project met the desired outcome. However, during a Sprint meeting with the stakeholders it was decided to pivot toward slideshows instead of webpages. Because the Agile Methodology was followed and there was increased communication between stakeholders and the team, this change in direction was determined earlier in the development lifecycle compared to if the team were to have followed a Waterfall lifecycle. The Agile-approach allows for upstream and downstream changes in real time, which leads to a completed project that meets the stakeholder’s requests in a timely manner.

To pave the way for the SNHU Travel project to be completed, the Scrum Master scheduled Scrum events. The Scrum Master first planned the Sprint, then setup Daily Scrum meetings. During the Daily Scrum, the Scrum Master helped provide guidance to perform as an agile team and aid in the flow of the meetings. The Scrum Master created an Agile Team Charter and communicated this charter to the rest of the team. The charter included the business case, mission statement, project team assignments, success criteria, key project risks, rules of behavior, and communication guidelines. By communicating these guidelines to the team, it set the foundation for following an agile approach for the SNHU Travel project.

The team also used organizational tools and principles to help the team be successful. Continuous integration is one of the principles used. This principle can be thought of as consistently adding to the project, rather than completing a task and reporting task completion after it is finished. For example, during the Daily Scrum meeting the developer would provide an update about their task to the team, detailing where they are in the progress of the task. This also describes another principled used, which is increased communication. To stay organized and streamline the communication between the team we used Azure Boards. This organizational tool has a tile per project and tasks are listed within the tile. During our Daily Scrum we reviewed which tasks were completed. In addition, at the end of the Sprint, during the Sprint Review, we were able to confirm all tasks were completed and none of the tasks needed to roll into the next Sprint. Using Azure Boards contributed to the overall success of the SNHU Travel project.

Using a Scrum-agile approach for the SNHU Travel project was effective. Due to the project having a major change in the product deliverable during development the Scrum-agile approach was the best approach we could have taken. The team was able to pivot quickly with limited wasted time. However, one con of using this approach was that there was only one developer, which meant the progress of the code heavily relied on the programmer’s capability. Fortunately, there were not too many roadblocks but it was a risk on the success of the project. Overall, each team member contributed to the total success of the SNHU Travel project.