**Project Sprint Review and Retrospective**

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Throughout the SNHU Travel project, the Scrum-Agile methodology demonstrated its adaptability and effectiveness. Serving as Scrum Master placed me in a unique position to observe how various roles, workflows, and tools contributed to the project’s success—even when unexpected challenges arose. Taking on the role of Product Owner gave me firsthand experience with external project management tasks, such as engaging with users and stakeholders and translating their needs into actionable goals for the team. Additionally, working as both Developer and Tester allowed me to use sprints to guide development and create test cases that ensured code stability. This essay reflects on our team’s journey by exploring role contributions, the evolution of user stories, how we handled disruptions, the communication strategies that kept us aligned, and the tools and techniques we used to evaluate our Agile approach.

One of the most valuable aspects of this project was gaining insight into how each team role strengthens the Scrum framework. As Scrum Master, I facilitated team processes and helped maintain focus and productivity. When acting as Product Owner, I introduced new goals and requirements, which were then clearly communicated during sprint planning to update the backlog. Meanwhile, Developers took ownership of their tasks, breaking down complex features into manageable components and sharing progress during team check-ins. Open dialogue—even when opinions differed—allowed us to debate solutions and converge on efficient, well-considered outcomes. This clear division of responsibilities fostered accountability and ensured that every team member’s contributions were recognized, boosting morale and cohesion.

User story development and refinement were also central to our Agile process. In Scrum, each user story represents a meaningful piece of functionality. One of our key stories involved building a streamlined “Top 5 List” for travel reservations. Rather than waiting until the project’s end to test this feature, we broke it into smaller iterations. Each sprint incorporated feedback from users and stakeholders, allowing us to address issues early and avoid compounding problems. This iterative approach not only improved the final product’s quality but also reinforced the team’s confidence in the process. By continuously refining user stories, we ensured the final deliverable aligned with real-world needs.

Naturally, not everything went according to plan. Our team faced interruptions that could have derailed progress. For example, a stakeholder requested changes to the graphics and functionality of the Top 5 List based on new market insights. This required a rapid pivot mid-sprint. As Product Owner, I clarified and relayed the updated requirements; the Scrum Master adjusted the backlog; and the Developer and Tester implemented and validated the new interface. Agile’s built-in flexibility made this transition smooth. Although daily stand-ups were simulated in this course, they proved invaluable for quick problem-solving and re-prioritization. While these disruptions added pressure, they ultimately became learning opportunities, helping us adapt quickly and build a product that better served its users and stakeholders.

Communication was another cornerstone of our success. We maintained open dialogue through discussion posts, emails, and mock sprint reviews. In real-world settings, even minor misunderstandings about task priorities can cause delays—but timely conversations can resolve issues before they escalate. Our project emphasized the importance of transparent, consistent communication, which fosters trust and keeps everyone aligned. The sample emails, meeting notes, and chat logs we reviewed offered practical examples of this collaboration and will serve as useful references for future projects.

Beyond communication, the tools and organizational practices we used were critical to our workflow. We leveraged digital boards to track progress, sprint burndown charts to monitor velocity, and backlog management software to prioritize tasks. Each Scrum event—whether sprint planning, daily stand-up, review, or retrospective—acted as a checkpoint to ensure alignment with project goals. Retrospectives, in particular, allowed us to reflect on what worked and what needed improvement, reinforcing continuous growth. My experience as a Tester highlighted this: crafting and executing test cases from user stories helped ensure software stability. Sharing these results during stand-ups and reviews enabled Developers to address bugs and usability concerns, while Scrum Masters and Product Owners used the insights to refine the backlog and update stakeholders.

Evaluating our overall Agile process revealed both strengths and areas for improvement. Scrum’s iterative nature allowed for frequent reassessment and adaptation, which was especially valuable during periods of change. However, this flexibility can also introduce challenges, such as scope creep or difficulty keeping pace with rapid iterations. Despite these hurdles, I believe Scrum-Agile was the ideal choice for the SNHU Travel project. It enabled us to stay responsive to evolving stakeholder needs and market conditions.

In conclusion, this project underscored the importance of well-defined roles, iterative development, adaptive strategies, effective communication, and structured organizational tools. Each element played a vital role in our success, proving that while Agile presents its own set of challenges, it offers a powerful framework for managing complex projects. The lessons I’ve learned have strengthened my technical and collaborative skills and laid a solid foundation for future endeavors where flexibility, teamwork, and continuous improvement are essential.

# References

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