**7-1 Final Project:**

**Sprint Review and Retrospective**

Jason Ditullio

Southern New Hampshire University

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Professor Jacquelyne Wilson

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When looking back at my team’s work on the SNHU travel project, everyone had a role to play when it came to the project’s success. For example, our team’s product owner was our main connection to the shareholders and customers. They would provide updates on our team’s progress to them and listen to things they liked about the project and what they’d like changed. Then they would create user stories that benefited our developers with their simplicity and easy to understand context. Moving off this, the developers were very important to the project success as they would adapt to any of the changes or priority adjustments to the requirements of the project. They not only worked to make sure the project met the requirements of the user stories, but also kept consistent communication with both the testers and product owner so that everyone was on the same page about any changes to the project. This leads to the tester’s role in the SNHU travel project. The testers created test cases based on the user stories given by the product owner. Because of their simplicity, the testers created test cases that not only found out if the project was running properly but also found out if there was anything missing from the project that didn’t align with the user stories. Lastly, as a Scrum Master for this team, I worked to keep open discussion between all the team members through organizing Scrum meetings. Through these meetings I made sure that everyone knew what they still needed to work on and what has already been accomplished.

When we approached the SNHU travel product with a Scrum-agile approach, it helped us bring the different user stories to completion by getting simple, easy to understand descriptions of what an end user wanted. For instance, when our product owner spoke with a few end users about what features they wanted for the SNHU Travel website, they were able to slim down what the users wanted into simple user stories. After this, the product owner organized them based on order of importance in our team’s product backlog. By creating and organizing the user stories this way, everyone on the team knew what exactly the user’s wanted as well as how important the user stories implementations were to the project. The simplicity of the user stories also helped our testers by helping them know what tests needed to be done on the project based on the story.

At one point in development of the SNHU Travel Project, our product owner came to the developers, testers, and I to let us know of a new direction for the project. They told us that we should change our focus to making travel plans based on detox and wellness. Since our project was being created with Agile in mind, it allowed us to adapt to this change and reorganize our priorities to work it in. Our product owner deprioritized other stories in the backlog for all of us to make room for this change. Another main aspect of agile that helped in making this shift in priority easier was good communication between all members of the team. With all of us talking together with the product owner, we were able to ask questions in that moment so that everyone was on the same page going forward with the project.

I believe that I had communicated effectively with my team members throughout the project. As a scrum master, I created scrum meetings where team members could come and talk about what they have completed with the project and what still needs to be done. This helped encourage team members to share any problems or ideas that they had with the rest of the team and opened communication between team members. Another way that I communicated effectively with my team was by making sure that the backlog was organized appropriately and prioritized by working with the product owner and other teammates. By making sure that my fellow team members and the product owner were on the same page with the product backlog, this made sure that there were only important or relevant entries inside the backlog. Lastly, by facilitating the sprint review with my team members, I was able to make sure that the scrum team’s progress was known to stakeholders and that conversation happened about what they liked with the team’s progress and what needed to be changed.

One organizational tool that was helpful with our team’s success was the product backlog. Through the product backlog, our team was able to know what exactly the top priority for development was and what they could focus on later down the line. Another way the product backlog was helpful to us was that it was constantly updated to make sure that everything within it was up to date. This made sure that what our team was working on was current and that we didn’t waste time working on unnecessary things. An agile principle that I believe helped our team be successful was the emphasis on communication with customers. By consistently getting feedback from our customers through producing a working product, we were able to always know what the customers liked or wanted changed throughout development. Also because of agile’s ability to adapt with change, we could work in any of these changes, and it didn’t affect our development process.

I believe that when it came to the SNHU Travel Project, using agile was a very effective way to work on the project. Some of the pros to it are that it increased communication between team members, helped us adapt to any changes during development, and it also helped us organize our work based on user stories and the product backlog. However, some cons that came about because of Agile development was that the plan for development seemed a bit too loose and that the user stories were a bit too simplistic at times. When weighing the pros and the cons of developing with an Agile approach, I believe that the accomplishments that my team has done shows that it was the best approach for us. From being able to adjust to changes in our development to making sure everyone was always on the same page, taking an agile based approach helped us created a travel website that users are sure to love.