

Sprint Review and Retrospective

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First, I'd like to congratulate everyone for doing an excellent job at each of your roles and your willingness to adapt and take on new principles for completing our project. There was a lot to learn and I'm proud of everyone for being present in each phase of the software development lifecycle for us to push out the best possible product. Our product owner is very pleased with the work we've done and so as a final review I'd like to cover each step and how it contributed to our overall success.

By partitioning responsibilities for all the tasks into individual roles, we were able to tackle each portion of the project in a very efficient, organized, and timely manner. Halfway through our project, our product owner gained new information about recent travel trends through our end-users and market data which completely shifted gears for our whole team. This could have been a major hiccup if we had continued our old waterfall methodology. However, due to the flexibility of the agile system and the roles in place, we were able to quickly pivot. The product owner gave us clear deliverables that we were able to quickly assign to the rest of the development team through my role as the scrum master.

The scrum-agile approach allowed us to easily adapt to the new user stories since the framework of responsibilities was already in place. In retrospect, we really didn't lose any time since all we had to do was switch what we were already doing to a new end goal of wellness trips as opposed to general vacation types. All the original work from the development team such as user profiles, price filtering, and most popular trips was able to stay intact and the only real change necessary was switching the overall end-goal of each trip. Even the feature of being able to filter trips

based on user preference/history was left alone since it was developed and tested as its own unit. The flexibility and separation of interests in the agile methodology allowed us to easily swap out only the necessary components in order to adapt to the new end goal.

By focusing on a main pillar of communication, all these changes were implemented very quickly, and our product owner is very pleased that we didn't lose any momentum through the development lifecycle. Holding daily scrum meetings allowed the changes to be communicated quickly and each person on the scrum team was informed and able to, on the same day, start working on the new features and changing photos and text where necessary. I'm grateful to everyone for showing up to the daily scrum meetings and being willing to listen and incorporate each of the new deliverables as they came in and for your attentiveness and communication to each other in each of your roles. I feel like we've learned how important consistent and clear communication is from my role as the scrum master and between each team member and I hope we can continue this great methodology throughout our next project.

I'd also like to acknowledge how wonderful each of the tools we used were/are through the agile approach. Had it not been for using Notion, it could have been very easy for each team member to forget all the changes that were constantly happening and all the updates that were communicated in our scrum meetings. This quickly became our most important secondary form of communication as each role was assigned with their specific tasks within their own databases and calendars. The ease of switching up tasks allowed each of us to know exactly what we needed to do each day and when those tasks needed to be completed and submitted. The flexibility of being able to update the entire framework through this tool was a major component in our success with this project and we will continue to use it on our next project.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate just how effective the Scrum agile approach was for our team. We've been through a lot of transitions on this project incorporating more team members and switching up the ultimate direction of the app halfway through the project. Had we stayed on the waterfall methodology, all these changes would have seriously disrupted our progress and we might not have delivered a final product as good as we did or even within the timeframe assigned to us. I've sat here meditating on potential cons to this new adopted methodology but really cannot come up with any. The scrum agile approach was a lifesaver for us, and the only potential downsides were that it was new and something we had to learn at the same time as performing at it. All in all, everyone did a great job. Going forward I will continue the training and education on this model and hope everyone maintains their willingness to learn and grow with this new way of doing things. You've all seen the evidence of how impactful it can be so my hope is you continue to be willing to learn the principles outlined in this methodology so we can tackle the next project with even better results. Also, you all are getting a raise.