Final Project

CS-250

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In our Scrum-Agile team, each role was essential to the success of the SNHU Travel application project. The Product Owner (PO) played a key role in defining and prioritizing the product backlog, ensuring that the team focused on the most valuable features for the client. For instance, the PO prioritized the development of the flight booking feature, which was crucial for the travel agency’s operations. By regularly communicating with stakeholders, the PO ensured that the team’s efforts aligned with business goals and customer needs.

As the Scrum Master (SM), I facilitated Scrum ceremonies and removed impediments to keep the team on track. I organized daily stand-up meetings where team members discussed their progress and any blockers they faced. This daily communication helped in promptly addressing issues, such as a delay in receiving API documentation from a third-party provider. The development team, comprising developers, testers, and UI/UX designers, worked collaboratively to deliver increments of the application. Each member brought their expertise to the table, ensuring high-quality code and user-friendly designs. For example, the developers implemented the search functionality for flights, while the testers ensured it worked seamlessly across different devices and browsers.

The Scrum-Agile approach was instrumental in helping user stories come to completion efficiently. By working in sprints, the team was able to focus on a set of user stories each sprint, deliver them, and get feedback. For example, in the first sprint, we focused on creating the user login and registration features. After presenting these features in the sprint review, we received feedback that helped us improve the user interface for better usability. The PO prioritized the user stories based on their importance to the client’s business. This ensured that the most critical features were developed first. For instance, the itinerary management feature was prioritized early because it was a unique selling point for SNHU Travel.

The Scrum-Agile approach effectively supported the project when it faced interruptions and changes in direction. During the second sprint, we encountered a significant change when SNHU Travel decided to partner with a new flight data provider. This required us to adjust our plans and integrate with the new provider’s API. The flexibility of the Scrum framework allowed us to re-prioritize our backlog and address this change without major disruptions. The sprint retrospective meetings provided a platform for reflecting on what went well and what could be improved. For example, after the integration change, we discussed how to better handle such external changes in future sprints, leading to improved risk management practices.

Effective communication was crucial for the success of our project. In our daily stand-up meetings, each team member briefly shared what they had done the previous day, what they planned to do that day, and any blockers they faced. This kept everyone informed and allowed for quick problem-solving. For example, a developer mentioned a delay due to a missing API key, and the PO quickly facilitated communication with the client to resolve it. During sprint reviews, we demonstrated the completed features to stakeholders and gathered their feedback. This open communication ensured that we were on the right track and allowed for adjustments based on stakeholder input. For instance, stakeholders suggested enhancements to the trip planning feature, which we incorporated in the subsequent sprint.

Several organizational tools and Scrum principles helped our team succeed. We used JIRA to manage our product backlog, plan sprints, and track progress. This tool provided visibility into the status of user stories and tasks, facilitating better planning and execution. The structured Scrum events (sprint planning, daily stand-ups, sprint reviews, and retrospectives) provided a framework for collaboration and continuous improvement. For example, during sprint planning, we estimated user stories using story points, which helped in setting realistic goals for the sprint.

The Scrum-Agile approach presented several pros and cons during the SNHU Travel project. The flexibility of Scrum allowed us to adapt to changes and new requirements efficiently. Regular sprint reviews and retrospectives facilitated continuous improvement and alignment with stakeholder expectations. Daily stand-ups and transparent communication fostered a collaborative team environment. However, transitioning from a waterfall model to Scrum-Agile required a period of adjustment and learning for the team. Additionally, managing dependencies, especially with external partners, sometimes caused delays and required re-planning.

The Scrum-Agile approach was highly effective for the SNHU Travel project. The flexibility and iterative nature of Scrum allowed us to deliver a high-quality product that met the client’s evolving needs. Despite some initial challenges, the benefits of improved collaboration, continuous feedback, and adaptability outweighed the drawbacks. Based on the success of the SNHU Travel project, it is recommended that ChadaTech consider adopting the Scrum-Agile approach for other development teams. The approach not only improved product quality and client satisfaction but also fostered a more cohesive and motivated team environment.

This Sprint Review and Retrospective highlights the significant advantages of the Scrum-Agile methodology and provides insights that can guide ChadaTech in its broader transition to Agile practices.