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October 13, 2024

Module 7 Final Project

CS-250

Explaining Agile Roles

As we transitioned to Agile, each role on the team contributed significantly to the project's success. As the Scrum Master, I facilitated communication between the team, removed roadblocks, and ensured adherence to the Scrum framework. The Product Owner worked closely with stakeholders to prioritize user stories which ensured the team delivered high value features first. As an example, the Product Owner ensured that the user stories refocused on developing key features for SNHU Travel's detox and wellness direction and aligned with their specific goals. The development team collaborated daily and addressed technical requirements while also completing tasks iteratively. They also frequently integrated new code into the project as it progressed and new requirements were presented. The Tester role was pivotal, as they provided real-time feedback throughout the project and ensured that required information was collected in order to properly test. This role also helped maintain quality by testing each user story, enabling faster progress and higher quality production.

Handling Interruptions

The Scrum and Agile framework was crucial in managing project interruptions and changes to the scope of the project. Specifically, mid-project, SNHU Travel decided to shift their

direction and focus from general travel destinations to wellness and detox destinations. This change could have derailed the whole project if we were operating in a traditional waterfall approach, but because we utilized Agile, the team was able to quickly re-prioritize the product backlog and adjust the project. The team successfully adjust in real-time, focusing on user stories that aligned with the new wellness and detox focus. The flexibility of Scrum allowed the team to absorb the change without significant disruption to the project's timeline or deliverables.

Communication

Effective communication was key to the team's success throughout this project, and many different forms of communication were used to remain on the project's timeline and keep everyone updated with the changes. Specifically, we utilized communication while testing the user stories and acquiring the needed information to properly perform the tests. When SNHU Travel decided to shift their focus to wellness and detox destinations, the user stories that we had previously acquired needed to be updated with the new focus. The Tester was able to reach out to the Product Owner through email with detailed, direct questions requesting information that was required to properly test the user stories based on the updated focus. This allowed the testing to be completed with the most accurate information to provide tests that would yield worth while results.

Organizational Tools

There were many organizational tools utilized that aided in the success of the project, one specifically being the user stories tables. This was central to organizing and tracking work during

the project. Each user stories represented a specific feature or functionality that needed to be developed, and the user stories were able to be successfully prioritized by the Product Owner in the product backlog, with the high value features being first. By breaking the project down into manageable user stories, the team could focus on delivering incremental, functional pieces of software during each sprint. Also, Sprint Planning and Sprint Reviews were vital Scrum events that successfully helped in clearly defining and tracking sprint goals for the project.

Evaluating Agile Process

The Scrum-Agile approach presented both pros and cons during the SNHU Travel project. One of the main pros of utilizing this method would be Agile's flexibility. This allowed us to adapt quickly to the changing priorities of the project, such as during the shift in focus to wellness and detox destinations. The iterative nature of Scrum also allowed us to deliver functioning software early and frequently throughout the process, utilizing sprints to progressively release pieces of software. One potential con would be the time it takes for the team to adapt to changes during the process. The redirection of the project to a wellness and detox destination focus required a bit of time to adjust the user stories and refocus the team, while also gathering the required information necessary for the adjustment. Despite this small challenge, I still believe that the Scrum-Agile approach was the best fit for the SNHU Travel project. The ability to respond to changes quickly and deliver value incrementally while also maintaining strong communication across the team members were all critical in ensuring the success of the project. Scrum's flexibility aligned perfectly with the evolving needs of SNHU Travel.