Sprint Review and Retrospective

Applying Roles:

Throughout the project, each Scrum role contributed significantly to the team's success. The Product Owner defined and prioritized the backlog, ensuring that development focused on high-value features. The Tester verified that acceptance criteria were met, ensuring high-quality deliverables. The Developer translated user stories into functional software, working iteratively to improve the product. As the Scrum Master, I facilitated communication, removed roadblocks, and ensured the team adhered to Agile principles.

A key example was the collaboration between the Tester and Product Owner during test case development. The acceptance criteria, user value statements, and action descriptions helped structure test cases effectively (in Module 4). Additionally, daily standups and backlog refinement allowed the team to clarify priorities and address blockers quickly. This open communication ensured that tasks were completed efficiently.

Completing User Stories:

The Scrum-Agile approach improved how user stories were completed. Instead of following a rigid Waterfall process, the team iterated on features, refined backlog items, and adjusted to changing requirements. One example was the vacation destination filtering feature, where discussions between the Tester and Product Owner helped clarify sorting preferences and error-handling scenarios (in Module 4). Because testing was integrated into each sprint, defects were identified early rather than at the end of development.

Sprint planning sessions helped the team break down user stories into manageable tasks, ensuring that each sprint delivered valuable increments. The team also leveraged JIRA's backlog management features to keep track of user stories, tasks, and defects, ensuring a structured workflow.

Handling Interruptions:

The agile flexibility allowed the team to adapt when requirements changed. For example, some user stories lacked detailed UI specifications, which could have caused delays in a traditional Waterfall model. However, by scheduling quick clarification meetings with the Product Owner, the team was able to proceed without major disruptions. Additionally, Agile's emphasis on continuous feedback ensured that refinements were made incrementally rather than requiring complete rework.

Communication:

Effective communication was critical in keeping the team aligned. The daily standups provided transparency and helped resolve issues quickly. Additionally, emails requesting clarification on backlog items and test cases helped ensure that all team members had the necessary information to proceed efficiently.

One example of strong communication was when the Developer requested updated test cases and expected outcomes from the Tester, ensuring that development work met quality standards. This level of collaboration prevented defects from being discovered late in the process.

Organizational Tools:

The team leveraged JIRA for backlog management, sprint tracking, and defect reporting. The Kanban board and burndown charts provided real-time visibility into progress, helping the team stay on track. Additionally, backlog refinement sessions helped ensure that user stories remained up to date and aligned with stakeholder expectations (CS 250 Agile Team Charter).

Evaluating Agile Process:

The Scrum-Agile approach had several advantages and some challenges.

Pros:
- Increased flexibility: Agile allowed the team to quickly adapt to changing requirements.
- Continuous feedback: Regular sprint reviews and retrospectives helped improve the product incrementally.
- Stronger collaboration: Daily standups and backlog refinement ensured all team members were aligned.

Cons:
- Frequent communication demands: Agile requires constant collaboration, which can be challenging if stakeholders are unavailable.
- Short sprint cycles: The tight five-week timeline required fast iterations, which sometimes led to increased pressure.

Overall, Agile is the best approach for the SNHU Travel project. It enabled continuous refinement, early issue detection, and iterative improvements, leading to a better final product. If ChadaTech transitions fully to Agile, it should ensure Scrum training and strong stakeholder involvement to maximize success.