Sprint Review and Retrospective of the SNHU Travel Project

In the process of switching from the waterfall methodology to the agile methodology approach I was given a project to see if the agile approach would be better suited to the Software Development Lifecycle. The project I was given was SNHU Travel. Traditionally this would be done by designing and planning first before any testing and debugging would take place. This would result in longer development times and risk of scratching the entire project due to the client not getting a released product in time. This is where agile comes in with breaking down tasks in smaller tasks. This is managed by smaller team members that consists of a Product owner, a Scrum Master, one to several software developers and testers. Product owners communicate closely with the stakeholders and clients to ensure they are happy with the product. They also keep track of the Product Backlog. The Product Backlog is used to guide in the completion of a product. Scrum Masters keep the process of the project running smoothly. Scrum Masters should know the ins and outs of Scrum. This can be from distractions, limitations, or obstacles that slow down the job. They also try to reduce the SDLC and increase productivity. Finally, we have testers and developers. These team members job is to make sure the tasks get done and if there are changes that need to be made, then these team members would be the ones to discuss with the Product Owner. (Trapani, 2019)

When using the Scrum-agile approach, communicating more openly has helped with the SDLC. This was achieved using a Product Backlog that consisted of User Stories. The User Stories are the requirements that the client expects to be in the product. It is broken down in columns of a story id, a story title, the size of the task and the priority of the task. The final part of the user story is the acceptance section. This section states that when a task does what is listed in this section than the user story is completed. (Trapani, 2019)

When the project changed direction, since we used the Scrum-agile approach, we didn’t need to change the entire code base. The Product Owner came to us discussing that the client would rather have health and wellness destinations as apposed to the top 5 destinations. We kept most of the code for the top five destinations and just replaced the top five with the top five health and wellness destinations.

When there were things that needed clarification for the project, an effective means of communication was emailing the Product Owner. A good example would be for the inputs of the top travel destinations in the user’s profile. There were things covered for the travel type, previous travel, and price limits, however, there was nothing stated for family-friendly destinations. The Product Owner got back to me and gave clarification on what is needed to succeed in the project.

There are several tools out there that help with organizing in a Scrum-agile team. The one we chose to use was Microsoft Azure Board. This tool closely resembles the typical whiteboard you would use in a in person meeting, just online. This is especially useful as remote work is more common now-a-days. Another reason why we chose this tool is it is in runtime e.g., when someone updates a status on the user stories, everyone involved on the team can see it live. (KathrynEE,2022)

Because the team used the agile methodology, the development team was able to adapt to the client’s needs easily without having to redesign the whole project by scratch. The client stated they wanted to have health and wellness as their destinations along with having a filter to show travel types based on previous travel, and also having a price limit to only show destinations in price range.

Resources

Trapani, Krista. “What Is Agile/Scrum.” *CPrime*, cPrime, 22 May 2018, www.cprime.com/resources/what-is-agile-what-is-scrum/.

KathrynEE. “What Is Azure Boards? Tools to Manage Software Development Projects. - Azure Boards.” *Docs.microsoft.com*, 7 Mar. 2022, docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/devops/boards/get-started/what-is-azure-boards?view=azure-devops.