Final Project/Scrum Retrospective

Isley Baggett

Southern New Hampshire University

250 Software Development Life Cycle

Mrs. Erin Terrell

12 December 2021

During this SNHU Travel Project I was able to experience four roles of the scrum-team. Those being Scrum Master, Product Owner, Tester, and Developer. I would like to start with them in order telling you of the experience I had in each role and how it helped accomplish the project. First, Scrum Master who is the head of our product development team first met with the Product Owner and Client to start working on requirements and creation of the product backlog. Once it was time to meet with the team he acted as a facilitator running the morning meetings where he would as if there were any barriers in the developer’s way, which he oversaw removing and assisting in anyway possible. After the end of the sprint, he runs a review and retrospective, as I am doing now. Next, we have the Product Owner who is our main buffer between the Client and Stakeholders. They are the ones who gather the useful information to create User Stories that are Valuable, Testable, and small to name a few of the requirements for a good story. These are then dissected to create the product backlog which is made visible to everyone. The product owner also only allows those User Stories to be worked on that are pertinent during the current sprint. Next, the Testers look at the acceptance criteria for SNHU Travel and use the product the developers provide to make sure it is meeting all requirements. If there is further information needed it is the Testers responsibility to reach out to the Scrum Master or Product owner for more info on acceptance criteria. Lastly, the Developers looked at the backlog for SNHU Travel and started working on product. Halfway through the project there was a change to how the Client wanted their final product. But the agile approach allowed for items to go back in the backlog and get reworked to meet the clients need and for the developers to stay on the schedule required.

The user stories being open to everyone in Scrum-agile allowed for everyone to pull the information needed to complete the project. The user value statement offered developers what they needed to create to meet the need of the client and the Testers had the knowledge from the acceptance criteria to make sure they were testing to the level of expectation of users allowing for user stories to come to completion.

Because this is agile, we expect things to change, and our client expects us to stay on timeline. When we first started working on this project, we were told to create a list of the top five destinations to travel that met a niche in the market. However, after starting this we moved to a slide show type view and wanted to switch from niche vacations to health and wellness vacations. Normally in a waterfall approach you would be set back to the beginning of the project and your timeline would be compromised. However, since we took on an agile approach, we were able to quickly recode to meet the user’s needs without upsetting our timeline. This was thanks to good communication between the developers and the leadership to make sure they did not need to restart from square one.

Communication Example:

Christy,

We are having trouble from the testers perspective to know what the different pages will look like and how to draw up test cases. Please provide further clarification on the questions below.

1. Will all vacations be ordered in the slide show format or only those showing a Top XX Number Vacations?
2. Will price sorting be available for only the vacations in list format?

These are the hiccups that the team is hitting right now, if anything else arises I will reach out.

-Isley

This is one email that I sent to the product owner to get clarification on how each page of the SNHU Travel web page should look. I need to know if all vacations should be presented in a slide show type format or if this was only for the featured vacations. I also needed to know when I should be able to price sort. This email shows how I communicated in a professional manner with those within the agile team. Asking these questions allowed me to build more robust test cases and allowed for use to deliver a product that met all expectations of the client.

The sprint is a great tool as it creates a timeline that you are held to. This made sure work is completed and if something is holding you back your more likely to bring it up to have the barrier removed. Transparency, be having a backlog available to everyone it creates an openness to what leadership is working with. Organizing the user stories based off importance to the client helps prioritize the backlog and can deliver a product that meets the basic needs of the user.

I would like to finish this retrospective with the pros and cons I saw throughout this process. Cons I would like to talk about first. As this was the first time/team to go through this, the learning curve was a big con. However, this was made up for by looking at case studies done with Valpak and Amazon to help show how agile can really make a difference within a company. Another con is that you do not do as much robust planning before the project. On the flip side, this is done because changes can occur to getting the information you need at that moment and then allowing to accept changes in the future. Some pros are that you can make changes without effecting the over all timeline of the project. This is due to sectioning up product backlog into “bite size chunks” making sure there is not one point of failure. Another pro was the communication between short morning meeting, open access to the product back long, and communication between team members the overall productivity was increased.

The Scrum-agile approach was the best one for this project because it was a small project allowing for use to do a test of agile in a controlled way. We also experienced changes throughout the project which agile allowed for use to stay on timeline regardless. Overall I believe agile is the way future business should be conducted as it allowed our company to stay flexible throughout the SNHU Travel assignment.