**7-1 Final Project**

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**Applying Roles**

During the SNHU Travel project, each member of our Scrum-Agile team played a vital role in our success. As the Scrum Master, my main job was to facilitate Scrum events and ensure the team worked efficiently. I organized and ran Sprint Planning, Daily Scrums, Backlog Refinement, Sprint Review, and Sprint Retrospective meetings. This structured approach helped us maintain high standards and continuously improve (Portman, 2022)​.

Christy, our Product Owner, was crucial in communicating user needs and prioritizing the backlog. By engaging directly with users and stakeholders, Christy made sure our product met their needs and added real value (Ghiba, 2022)​. Her direct interaction with users helped us create clear and precise user stories that guided the development team effectively.

Brian, our Tester, played a key role in developing comprehensive test cases based on user stories. His collaboration with Christy ensured that the acceptance criteria were clear, allowing him to anticipate potential issues and create targeted test scenarios. This thorough approach aligned our testing process with project goals.

Nicole, our Developer, turned the product backlog items into working software. She worked closely with Christy and Brian to ensure the development aligned with user stories and acceptance criteria. Nicole's proactive communication and adaptability were key to addressing changes and ensuring high-quality output (Unger et al., 2021).

**Completing User Stories**

The Scrum-Agile approach really helped us complete our user stories through iterative development and continuous feedback. For instance, the user story "As a cost-conscious user, I want to set a price limit so that I can find travel options within my budget" was developed, tested, and refined through collaboration and feedback loops. Regular Sprint Reviews allowed us to showcase our progress to stakeholders, gather feedback, and make necessary adjustments (Ghiba, 2022)​. By breaking down user stories into manageable tasks and prioritizing them based on value, our team could focus on delivering high-priority features first. This approach ensured we consistently delivered valuable increments and stayed aligned with user needs and expectations.

**Handling Interruptions**

Agile's flexibility was crucial when managing project interruptions and changes in direction. During the SNHU Travel project, we faced a significant change when the client requested a shift from "Top 5 Destinations" to "Top 5 Detox/Wellness Destinations." We managed this change efficiently through our daily stand-ups and sprint reviews. Regular communication ensured all team members were aware of the change and could coordinate their efforts to deliver the updated feature promptly (Schwaber & Sutherland, 2020). The ability to adapt to changes without significant disruption highlighted the strength of the Agile approach in handling dynamic project requirements. It allowed us to remain responsive to client needs and deliver a product that met their evolving expectations.

**Communication**

Effective communication was key to our success. Regular meetings, such as Daily Stand-ups, provided a platform for team members to share updates, discuss obstacles, and plan their day (Overeem, 2016). These meetings were brief yet focused, ensuring we addressed issues promptly and kept the project on track​. In addition to verbal communication, we used collaborative tools like JIRA and Slack for task tracking and quick communication. For example, a detailed email to Christy regarding additional information on user stories ensured we clarified ambiguities and refined acceptance criteria. This proactive approach to communication fostered collaboration and kept everyone aligned with project goals (Portman, 2022)​.

**Organizational Tools**

Organizational tools and Scrum-Agile principles played a vital role in our success. Tools like JIRA and Smartsheet helped us track tasks, collaborate, and monitor progress. These tools provided real-time updates on project status, allowing us to identify bottlenecks and adjust our plans accordingly (Spagnoletti et al., 2022). Scrum events, such as Sprint Planning and Sprint Retrospectives, were instrumental in keeping the team aligned and continuously improving. Sprint Planning helped us set clear goals and prioritize tasks, while Retrospectives allowed us to reflect on our performance and identify areas for improvement. These practices ensured we continuously evolved our processes and enhanced our team's efficiency and productivity.

**Evaluating Agile Process**

The Scrum-Agile approach had several advantages during the SNHU Travel project. It provided flexibility, allowing us to adapt to changes quickly and efficiently. The iterative development process ensured continuous feedback and alignment with user needs, resulting in a product that met client expectations. Regular communication and collaboration fostered a cohesive team environment, enhancing productivity and quality (Portman, 2022)​. However, there were also challenges. Managing scope and prioritizing tasks required careful planning and constant reassessment. The need for continuous communication and feedback could sometimes slow down the development process. Despite these challenges, the benefits of Agile, such as flexibility and responsiveness, outweighed the drawbacks.

In conclusion, the Scrum-Agile approach was highly effective for the SNHU Travel development project. It allowed us to remain adaptable, maintain continuous feedback loops, and deliver a high-quality product that met the client's evolving needs. This approach proved to be the best fit for a project that required flexibility and responsiveness to dynamic requirements.

References

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