## **Sprint Review and Retrospective**

**Introduction**

The SNHU Travel project involved using the Scrum-Agile framework to develop an application to help the travel agency expand its client base. Adopting an Agile approach allowed the team to deliver incremental value through iterative cycles, enabling flexibility in response to changing requirements and client feedback. This retrospective evaluates how the various roles in the Scrum team contributed to the project’s success, how user stories were completed, how the team handled interruptions, and how communication and organisational tools supported project completion. Finally, the effectiveness of the Scrum-Agile process for this particular project is assessed.

### **1. Applying Roles**

Each role contributes uniquely to the project's success in the Scrum-Agile methodology. The **Product Owner** is responsible for managing the Product Backlog and prioritising the most valuable features. For the SNHU Travel project, the Product Owner's role was crucial in adjusting priorities when new requirements emerged, such as adding wellness vacation packages. The product owner continuously refined the backlog and kept the development team focused on high-value tasks.

The **Scrum Master** facilitates the Scrum process by organising events, removing impediments, and ensuring the team follows Agile principles. For example, when the development team encountered challenges in implementing the wellness vacation feature, the Scrum Master arranged a meeting between the developers and the Product Owner. This resolved the issue quickly, allowing the team to stay on track and continue delivering value in each sprint.

The **Development Team** is cross-functional and responsible for delivering increments of working software at the end of each sprint. The team ensured that each sprint resulted in functional, deliverable features by breaking down user stories into manageable tasks. The collaboration within the team was evident in daily standups, where developers shared progress updates and addressed any blockers.

### **2. Completing User Stories**

The Scrum-Agile approach helped the team complete user stories efficiently by allowing for continuous refinement and iteration. Each sprint began with a **Sprint Planning** session, where user stories were reviewed, refined, and broken into smaller tasks. This made it easier for the development team to focus on delivering specific functionality within each sprint.

For instance, the user story related to adding a wellness vacation feature was broken down into tasks such as developing the booking page, integrating images, and creating package descriptions. These tasks were completed incrementally, with feedback gathered in **Sprint Reviews** to ensure alignment with the client's needs. By continuously delivering small, functional increments, the team could adapt quickly to project direction changes.

### **3. Handling Interruptions**

One of the key strengths of the Scrum-Agile methodology is its flexibility in handling interruptions or changes in direction. During the SNHU Travel project, the client requested a shift towards wellness vacations halfway through development. Using Scrum, the team was able to adapt quickly by holding a **Backlog Refinement** session, during which the Product Owner adjusted the priorities in the backlog to reflect the new direction.

In a traditional Waterfall approach, such a change would have caused significant delays, as the project would need to go back to the requirements and design phases before proceeding. However, Agile's emphasis on short, iterative cycles allowed the team to pivot without disrupting the project timeline. This adaptability was critical to maintaining momentum and ensuring the client’s needs were continuously met.

### **4. Communication**

Regular Scrum ceremonies, including **Daily Standups**, **Sprint Reviews**, and **Retrospectives, facilitated effective communication within the Scrum team**. These events provided a platform for team members to share updates, discuss progress, and identify any challenges they faced. For example, during the Daily Standups, each team member provided a brief update on what they had accomplished, what they planned to do next, and any impediments they faced.

In one instance, feedback from the client during a **Sprint Review** led to the refinement of the wellness vacation feature’s user interface. This feedback was incorporated into the Product Backlog for the next sprint. The **Sprint Retrospective** allowed the team to reflect on what went well and identify areas for improvement, ensuring that the team continuously improved its processes.

### **5. Organizational Tools**

Using organisational tools such as **JIRA** played a vital role in helping the team stay organised and on track throughout the project. JIRA allowed the team to create and track user stories, assign tasks, and monitor progress. Using a **Kanban board**, the team could easily see which tasks were in progress, which were completed, and which were blocked. This provided visibility to the entire team, enabling quick adjustments when necessary.

Integrating JIRA with Scrum events like **Sprint Planning** and **Daily Standups** helped the team maintain alignment and focus. During the standups, the team referred to the JIRA board to discuss task status, ensuring that everyone was aware of their responsibilities and the progress being made.

### **6. Evaluating the Agile Process**

The Scrum-Agile process was highly effective for the SNHU Travel project, particularly given the dynamic nature of the client’s requirements. Agile's iterative nature allowed the team to continuously deliver value and adjust to changes in priorities, such as the shift toward wellness vacations. By regularly reviewing and refining the Product Backlog, the team ensured that the most valuable features were always prioritised.

However, one potential downside of the Scrum-Agile approach is the risk of **scope creep**, as new features can be added throughout the development process. This was managed in the SNHU Travel project through regular **Sprint Reviews**, where the Product Owner and client discussed the project’s priorities and adjusted the backlog as needed. Despite this challenge, the Scrum-Agile methodology proved to be the best approach for this project due to its flexibility and ability to deliver continuous value to the client.