Final Project: Sprint Review & Retrospective

CS 250 T4157

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**Demonstrate how the various roles on your Scrum-agile Team specifically contributed to the success of the SNHU Travel project**.

Each of the roles in the Scrum Agile team were critical for the success of the project.

* The scrum master set up the necessary events, forums and processes to enable the team to succeed in Agile. He also championed the process and guided the team
* The Product owner set up user stories with enough detail to enable the rest of the team to succeed. He did backlog grooming with the leaders on the team. He also interacted with the customer and brought feedback and changes to the team.
* Development Team
  + The tester created test cases which mapped out user flows and user stories in more detail than user stories. When gaps were identified in requirements he identified and filled those gaps.
  + The developer is the backbone of the team. He identifies and completes the work needed. He has the technical knowledge to get the project done. When changes come in, he is the ultimate person to provide input on whether something is feasible.

**Describe how a Scrum-agile approach to the SDLC helped each of the user stories come to completion**.

The scrum process helped everyone plan well, iterate fast and respond to changes. Since the goal is to have a demo-able feature at the end of every sprint, the goal was very clear. He made sure the tickets were ordered by the right priority; the development team had all the details needed. Others similarly took on different tasks based on their role. Each of those roles helped the user story move forward towards completion. When there was a challenge or an interruption, the Scrum agile process allowed for ways to handle it. Since it is an empirical process (Charles Cobb, 2015), the frequent inspections (standups) and frequent adaptations helped deliver each of the user stories. An example of the benefit of frequent inspections is when the tester identified a gap in requirements and emailed the group to get more information. An example of the benefit of adaptations is when the Project Owner brought changes and feedback from the customer to the group.

**Describe how a Scrum-agile approach supported project completion when the project was interrupted and changed direction**

Due to its adaptive nature the Scrum agile approach allows for changes to come in later in the process. As decisions are made and implemented, they are shown to the stakeholders involved. Changes are made incrementally so major investments aren’t made upfront which allows planning for those investments/changes later in the process. It is also important to organize workflow, so feedback is fast. This is exactly what happened in this project. When the types of trips were presented to the customer, they told us that they were looking to launch this in a niche segment based on recent market research. That helped the team immediately take the changes into account and

1. Product owner reprioritized tickets in backlog
2. Tester updated test cases
3. Developer started working on changes

**Demonstrate your ability to communicate effectively with your team by providing samples of your communication**.

The team communicated effectively during standups and on email. As a product owner I communicated effectively about changes in the type of trips needed (niche health segment).

As a tester, I emailed the product owner for more details to write proper test cases:

While writing the test cases for Feature Y, I realized there was some ambiguity in how the feature was built. Currently it is a list-view which makes it harder to navigate. For example, the amount of information that can be displayed is very limited and the images are quite small. Since the user story did not have details about how to present information, I was interested to know if you had a perspective.

As a developer I did the same

I had a follow up question about the changes discussed in this morning’s standup. Could you provide the resources (list of destinations and image content) to add to the application? I would also need pricing information so that the application can take it into account when recommending destinations based on user profile preferences.

**Evaluate the organizational tools and Scrum-agile principles that helped your team be successful**.

Using JIRA as a tool helped us be successful. JIRA is useful for everyone to have a quick understanding of the state of the project and to have transparency. This especially helps distributed teams. However, the F2F standups and interactions also helped us communicate effectively with each other. F2F meetings are generally higher bandwidth for complex topics while written mediums like JIRA are more effective for straightforward communications and status updates. Having both in our team helped us get the best of both approaches.

**Assess the effectiveness of the Scrum-agile approach for the SNHU Travel project**.

1. **Describe the pros and cons that the Scrum-agile approach presented during the project.**
2. **Determine whether or not a Scrum-agile approach was the best approach for the SNHU Travel development project.**

Pros:

1. Due to continuous delivery and demos, we are fairly confident that our customers like our product.
2. Due to the above, we knew early about the change in audience for the portal (niche travel segment)
3. Everyone in the team is aware of how things are progressing. There is limited siloing.
4. There are bound to be fewer last-minute surprises.

Cons:

1. Funding needed to be flexible. The manager on the team still doesn’t have an end date for the project since the backlog is long.
2. Legal has repeatedly brought up concerns that it is unclear when we plan to begin charging for the product. This is due to the fact that we haven’t decided what part the feature set is complete and can be charged for.
3. Since we didn’t depend on other teams or big dependencies this project went smoothly. However, it might not scale across large teams or dependencies.
4. Having more than one (or two) pizza size team in a standup may sometimes be necessary.

Overall, it does look like Scrum agile approach was the right approach. We have a demo able product that the customer is happy with.

**References:**

Charles G. Cobb. (2015). The Project Manager’s Guide to Mastering Agile : Principles and Practices for an Adaptive Approach. Wiley.