CS 250 Final Project

For the past couple of weeks my team has been working on a project for SNHU travel agency in assisting SNHU to expand the SNHU Travel customer base and increasing business by getting into trendy, niche vacation packages. Our team is made up of four members; Christy the Product Owner, Ron the Scrum Master, Brian the Tester, and Nicky the developer. Each member on the team plays an important role for this project’s success. Christy the product owner sets up the initial meeting with the client, Amanda, to get an idea of what the client is hoping to achieve. From here, Ron the Scrum Master assembled an agile team to work together on the project. Together the team created an agile team charter which laid the vision and mission statement, expected completion dates, any key risks, rules of behaviors and communication guidelines that would be used over the course of the project. Then the product owner, Christy, held a focus group in which several of the best customers of SNHU Travel who purchased their niche vacation packages through competitors were gathered to answer questions. This face-to-face meeting is the best way for the product owner to get a better understanding of what the users are looking for in travel websites. The product owner took all the needs and turn them into user stories which is easily split into backlog of tasks. This helped Nicky the developer get a better understanding on the what needs to be done and prioritize first. It also helps her get an idea of how intensive the work is going to be. From here, Brian the tester developed a detailed test case for each of the user stories. He include a descriptive name for each test case, identified detailed steps that will need to be taken by the user to complete the action identified in the user story and indicated clear pass/fail measures for each step.

Unfortunately, Brian needed additional informational in developing his test cases because it was missing from the user stories. In order to get more information he emailed Christy the product owner. This back-and-forth communication is a part of agile and is very important for the team’s success. It is important for the team members to make any changes along the way and resolve any issues as they go.

As the team was working on the project with the initial goals, some new requirements were received from the SNHU travel management. Christy the product owner called the team for a meeting and shared how the SNHU Travel wanted to be on the cutting edge and wanted the focus of their new booking tool to be detox/wellness travel. With the scrum-agile approach, we were able to discuss the new changes and were able to make a plan to make this change happen. And since this is agile, the same dates were kept and other stories were deprioritized in the product backlog so that the team can focus on this product.

Throughout the project completion, there was a lot of communication that took place between team members and the client. Communication is an vital part of agile and is important in delivering a quality product. For me effective communication was achieved by scrum meetings,. and emails for clarification. For example, when the we had the new requirements, I emailed Christy and Brian, the product owner and the tester, to get more details on what the vision and expectations are for this project.

The scrum events were a great way to organize the team that helped the team be successful. Being a scrum master, I learned about the product backlog, sprint planning, daily scrum meetings, sprint reviews and sprint retrospective. Daily scrum are used to inspect and adapt the team's progress towards realizing the Sprint Goal. I planned these scrum events at a time that works best for all the team members. Then we had sprint planning where the team plans and agrees on product backlog items. In sprint review, team come together and review the product and determine what needs to be closed off and what still needs work. Sprint retrospective is the recurring meetings for discussing what went well and what can be improved at a sprint, and planning ways to increase the quality and effectiveness of the sprint.

The effectiveness of the Scrum-agile approach for the SNHU travel project was a success given the sudden change at the end where the team members had to change the types of travel and vacation to focus on detox/wellness. There are pros and cons of agile approach. The pros are that its faster in delivery of a product, transparency, ease of collaboration, continuous improvement, adaptability. A con can be that the team members are not keeping up their work causing the sprints to fall behind.

I don’t think any other approach would have been better than Scrum-agile approach for this project. The waterfall approach is sequential and each phase needs to be fully completed before moving on. The projects are also planned out ahead of time. Once the stage is completed there is no returning. On the other hand, the agile approach is more flexible and adaptive to uncertain and changing user requirement than the waterfall development model. The agile approach allowed us to make a change for the new requirement which helped create a software that met the requirements of the project.