Journal

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For this sprint retrospective, I would like to look back at our team and how we did on the last sprint. Our development team did a great job pivoting from a list view of all the vacation spots to a slide show format. This showed their flexibility and one of the benefits of using an Agile workflow. Also, The Testers did a great job looking at the user stories, writing down the desired outcomes of each action, and then getting back to the development team on how to fix any errors. The testing team also did a great job being flexible switching their tests from the old product to the newer version of the slide show and changing their examinations accordingly. I also want to thank the product owner for talking to the clients to ensure we were meeting expectations and updating the website as we needed to fit their vision. This Scrum-Agile approach to the software development lifecycle has helped tremendously with how our team works together and also the efficiency of our team. Having daily meetings where everyone shared what they were working on and what was stopping them was critical to keep us moving forward and also helped strengthen the bonds between the team. This daily meeting also helps keep everyone accountable to show up on time and communicate with each other which is imperative to have an efficient team.

Our ability as a team to pivot the course of our website was astonishing. When everyone came together to see the revised product vision we all got to work to change the format from a list view to a slide show. I know this was not an easy task since we already had tests set up for the previous version, but the whole team pulled through to get a quick turnaround to get the new product vision in line with the product we were creating. The development team and the testing team did a great job making sure the new version was working well before our deadline. This would not have been possible with the waterfall design. This is due to the flexibility that agile brings, with the waterfall design we would have to replan all the different aspects of the new website which could have set us back, but instead agile got us through it being able to switch everyone to work on the newer version with least amount of time.

Our communication within the team has also been great during this whole process. I would like to point out that during the daily scrum meetings we heard some feedback about some developers that everyone had thoughts on. Due to this feedback, I was able to talk to this developer and get him on the same page as everyone else making sure they would show up on time every day and make sure he understood why he had to. This developer was working on certain parts of the project that he needed to collaborate with other developers on which due to them being late was not possible so making sure we were all on the same page was essential communication that would help with the efficiency of the product getting finished on time.

Using a product backlog manager such as JIRA was very helpful for all members of our team. It helped the Scrum master refine and review the product backlog. It also is great nonverbal communication within our team with everyone taking tasks as they get things finished. Having this visibility within the team is a great way to get everyone on the same page as to where everyone is at within the project. This tool was a great addition to help our already stellar communication.

The Scrum-Agile approach was a great fit for this SNHU Travel Project. It helped us with the flexibility of the team in pivoting the course of the product. This also helped with communication within the team with the daily scrum meetings having everyone share where they are at on their tasks and ask for help when needed. The only downside I have seen is not everyone being on board or not understanding why we have to do what we do. Making sure we have everyone on the product team on the same page is very important to have a successful product launch. Making sure everyone has the proper training and understanding of why we are doing the things we are doing is one of the most important parts of using the Agile method.