**Southern New Hampshire University**

***Final Project***

**Joseph Opheim**

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**Professor Nathan Braun**

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Throughout this adventure I have had the opportunity to experience each role within the SCRUM team for the SNHU Travel Project. The team consists of a product owner, a scrum master, testers, and developers. These various roles are vital to the success of the agile methodology and provided us significant insight into each role within the Travel Project. While I was the scrum master, I was responsible for organizing and overseeing our daily scrum meetings, establishing other scrum events as well as the overall development and training within the scrum team. This would allow me to direct the traffic of the team as well as solve any impediments the team faced during our daily scrum gatherings. Also, with each daily scrum meeting, we would openly communicate about the progress of the SNHU Travel Project all while being on the same page with the rest of the team. This would all help the success of the team and project by being able to openly communicate with all involved if there were any issues to arise within the project itself. I would also do other tasks that didn’t exactly relate to the project itself but things that would help the team work more efficiently and effectively.

As the product owner, I would be in constant contact with the scrum master and team as well as the stakeholders. It was my job to facilitate any changes the stakeholders would request and trickle them into the team. I would update the user stories regularly and communicate the updates to the team. When the updates were complete, it was my job to report back to the stakeholders to ensure they were happy with the changes desired. With me being persistent on the user stories being updated, this would help the team stay on track with the changes requested. It would also continue to allow the agile methodology to succeed with the constant and open communication that would welcome such changes on the fly.

During the testing process, I had the opportunity to work on behalf of the users and customers. During this time, if there were any errors within the program or if it didn’t behave as it should, I would communicate this directly in the scrum meetings. By doing so, the agile process would flourish by being able to adapt to problems immediately instead of the waterfall process and face them at the end. I would research the user stories and test cases and act in the best interest of the clients and users of the overall product when reporting back to the development team or the scrum meetings. By acting in the best interests of the users and clients, this would expedite the agile process within the team itself. Instead of dealing with the issues at the end or trying to make changes after everything is complete and running, I was able to direct the team via the user stories to fix or change anything that was needed immediately to keep the agile process flowing. The agile process allowed me to constantly communicate with the scrum masters and product owner to verify even the most minute details necessary.

As the developer of the SNHU Travel Project, it was my duty to write the program through each sprint, report it to the tester and scrum meetings, and then repeat the process if we were successful. It was important to leave detailed comments within the code to let any other developer know what the intention was per the user story, any changes made requested by the tester or stakeholders and this was also a common practice within the agile process. For example, when the stakeholders had asked the product owner to focus on wellness vacations, it was brought to our attention during the daily scrum meeting, and we created a new sprint in live time. It didn’t mean halt everything else around us, but rather to adjust the code and hyperlinks which were easy to accomplish. The agile methodology allowed us to make changes in real time each day that was requested via the stakeholders.

First, SLDC stands for software development life cycle. This is a framework that describes the activities performed at each stage of the development. Here we can create and use the information system as well as maintain it. The way the agile approach helps user story completion is simple. The stories are broken down and estimated at its level of difficulty and time. They then are selected based on the priority chosen during the difficulty level process. This process helps the team then get focused on the priorities of the program and deliver. The team gets this information from sprint reviews. During these reviews, the stakeholders provide the product owner feedback to provide insights and requests of the product and its capabilities. These adjustments will enhance the user stories with more details which allows it to trickle through the team with the agile process. The details trickled through the team during the daily scrum meetings. The scrum master and product owner communicate with the team to validate the direction the program will go or is heading so everyone is aware. This is not limited to challenges, failures and when they do arise, this meeting helps the quick resolution(s).

When new priorities do arise within the meetings and sprints, agile allows for adaptation to ever changing needs which validates the new priorities to be accommodated. When the stakeholders requested us to focus on wellness vacations, the team was far into the program. The daily scrum made us aware of the new requests, the communication of such requests made it simple for the team to accommodate. Agile methodology allowed us to handle the interruption by adjusting the sprint plan in the daily scrum and then effectively re-prioritize the tasks at hand. This is not only a perfect example of the agile method of handling interruptions, but also can be boxed in with effective communication.

By having the daily scrum meetings and face to face, we were able to avoid any time delays in relaying the information throughout the team. If the communication couldn’t be face to face, there was open collaboration with emails as well sent during this project. The most effective way was of course the daily scrum, but an honorable mention was the tasks boards to follow as well. I think the most underrated effective form of communication was openly conversing about the current impediments that each team member may have faced and immediately could get or provide solutions amongst each other.

There are other tools within the agile methodology much like the tasks boards mentioned previously. Other features and tools are methods such as sprint planning, progress tracking, backlog management and other features such as the Jira Software. We could go as far and mention Zoom or go all the way back to the basics and mention the good ole fashioned whiteboard. Within the scrum events, the tools we are referring to will be the daily meetings and sprint reviews. During the time I spent working on the SNHU Travel Project, our team mainly focused on the task board, the daily scrum, user stories and backlog refinements. We didn’t have to dig too deep in the proverbial bag to complete the software the stakeholders were seeking.

There were many positives to using the scrum agile approach during the SNHU Travel Project. The main one, that has been referenced a few times has been the adaptability of the team when things would change. Not only were we able to adapt to the stakeholders’ requests but being able to communicate with the stakeholders and their continuous involvement truly was a breath of fresh air. The biggest challenge I would like to point out was the availability of the stakeholders which did impact the sprint progress. Although it wasn’t necessarily a con, the product owner and the stakeholders’ details were a bit broad in the beginning and this halted my performance slightly, but we were able to overcome it all by using the agile approach. The agile methodology was the best and most ideal method to use during this project compared to the waterfall methodology. We would have been stuck at the end of the software when the stakeholders requested wellness vacations, the team wouldn’t have been able to openly communicate about any impediments as well us needing the involvement of the stakeholders and their valued input.