Jordan Walker

Nicholas Schnack

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**Module Seven: Final Retrospective**

The SNHU Travel project was ChadaTech's first attempt at transitioning from the traditional Waterfall model to the Agile methodology, using the Scrum framework. The project aimed to create an innovative application for SNHU Travel to help expand its client base through advanced digital tools. This retrospective examines the roles, communication strategies, and tools that contributed to the project’s success, evaluating whether the Scrum-Agile approach was the right choice.

In the Scrum framework, each role is vital to a project's success. As Scrum Master, I facilitated daily Scrum events, ensured adherence to Agile principles, and addressed obstacles promptly. During Sprint Planning, I guided the team in breaking down tasks into manageable user stories and setting realistic sprint goals. For example, when an issue with a third-party API arose, I collaborated with the Product Owner to re-prioritize the backlog, allowing the team to focus on tasks that could be completed while the issue was resolved.

The Product Owner managed the product backlog and prioritized features based on business value and stakeholder input. A critical decision was to prioritize secure payment gateways, based on feedback emphasizing security in the travel booking process. The Development Team worked collaboratively, overcoming challenges by leveraging their diverse skills and self-organizing effectively. This collaboration demonstrated the effectiveness of Agile teamwork, especially when implementing complex features.

The Agile approach was instrumental in completing user stories efficiently. User stories, representing the end-user's needs, were prioritized and tackled within each sprint. For instance, one user story involved developing a feature that allowed users to search and book niche vacation packages. The team adapted quickly to issues, such as bugs in the search algorithm, by reassigning tasks and resolving problems without delaying the overall sprint progress. This iterative approach allowed for continuous improvement and ensured the completion of user stories.

Interruptions are common in software development, and the Agile methodology is well-suited to handle these challenges. During the SNHU Travel project, the team encountered several interruptions, including mid-sprint changes in client requirements. For example, the client requested a “Top Destinations” slideshow feature after the sprint had begun. The flexibility of the Agile framework allowed the team to incorporate this change without compromising the quality of other deliverables. The Product Owner ensured that the new feature aligned with the overall project goals, and the team delivered the updated application on time.

Effective communication was a cornerstone of the project’s success. Daily stand-ups, sprint reviews, and retrospectives ensured transparency and alignment. For instance, clear and concise communication between the Product Owner and Development Team regarding the payment gateway integration ensured that the final product met client expectations. Additionally, JIRA, a project management tool, played a crucial role in tracking progress, managing tasks, and maintaining visibility across the project. JIRA enhanced communication and collaboration, contributing significantly to the project’s success.

Overall, the Scrum-Agile approach proved crucial for the SNHU Travel project. Its flexibility and focus on incremental value delivery made it the best approach for this project. The success in delivering a functional, user-friendly application within the project’s timeline and budget underscores the effectiveness of the Scrum-Agile framework. The insights gained from this pilot project will be invaluable as ChadaTech considers transitioning all its development teams to Agile. The success of this project suggests that Agile methodologies, when implemented effectively, can lead to improved product quality, better stakeholder engagement, and a more cohesive corporate culture.