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CS 250

Sprint Review and Retrospective for the SNHU Travel Project

As the Scrum Master for the SNHU Travel project, I am responsible for summarizing, analyzing, and drawing conclusions on our development efforts. In this Sprint Review and Retrospective, I will address various aspects of our journey, highlighting how the different roles on our Scrum-agile team contributed to the project's success, how the Scrum-agile approach helped us complete user stories, and how it supported us when the project changed direction. Additionally, I will demonstrate effective communication within the team and evaluate the organizational tools and Scrum-agile principles that contributed to our success. Finally, I will assess the overall effectiveness of the Scrum-agile approach for the SNHU Travel project, considering its pros and cons and determining whether it was the best approach for this development.

Contribution of Various Roles:

The Product Owner played a critical role in defining the project's vision, managing the backlog, and providing continuous feedback. They ensured that user stories aligned with the business goals of SNHU Travel. The developer actively participated in sprint planning, development, and testing. The role was to turn user stories into functioning software features, and adjust any features when changes come about. The tester's role was pivotal in maintaining the software's quality. They created comprehensive test cases, detected and reported bugs, and ensured that the software met the acceptance criteria. The Scrum Masters role (me) was to facilitate meetings, remove impediments, and ensure the team adhered to Scrum principles, which played a vital role in maintaining the flow of the project.

Scrum-agile Approach and User Stories:

The Scrum-agile approach was instrumental in our project's success by ensuring user stories were completed effectively. It allowed us to work in iterative sprints, emphasizing collaboration and flexibility. For instance, we tackled a few different user stories such as “Destinations based on prev. History”, “Price Limits” and “Set Travel preferences on profile.” We managed this by breaking it into test steps, estimating their complexity, and prioritizing them based on business value. We then revised each test case to make sure each had appropriate inputs and expected results. This approach allowed us to deliver a working feature incrementally and continuously refine it based on feedback from the Product Owner and the tester. The incremental nature of agile development enabled us to respond to changing requirements and adjust priorities as needed.

Scrum-agile Approach in Changing Directions:

Our project faced interruptions and changes in direction, as often happens in software development. The Scrum-agile approach was pivotal in addressing these challenges. For example, during the project, the Product Owner introduced the need for detox/wellness travel, which required a shift in priorities. Agile's flexibility allowed us to reevaluate our sprint backlog, reprioritize, and accommodate the requirements while still maintaining progress on the existing ones. Frequent communication in daily stand-ups and sprint planning meetings helped us adapt to changes swiftly.

Effective Communication:

Effective communication was key to our success. Here's an example of how effective communication played a role: When SNHU Travel management found an industry report showing that detox/wellness vacations are going to be the next big travel sector, they communicated it clearly, provided instructions on what they wanted, and assigned it to the developer. This clear communication

facilitated prompt resolution and maintained collaboration among team members, but also helped get the message across quickly to get the work started.

Organizational Tools and Scrum-agile Principles:

We utilized organizational tools like project management software (excel) and messaging platforms to streamline communication and maintain transparency. Scrum-agile principles, such as daily stand-up meetings, sprint planning, and sprint reviews, were effective tools in ensuring continuous alignment with the project's goals. These principles were very important in helping the team make collective decisions, adapt to changes, and maintain a focus on delivering value.

Assessing the Scrum-agile Approach:

Pros of the Scrum-agile Approach:

- Flexibility to adapt to changing requirements.
- Feedback loop with the Product Owner and tester.
- Collaborative environment that promotes teamwork and communication.
- Incremental delivery of features, allowing for early user feedback.
- Transparency and visibility with project status.

Cons of the Scrum-agile Approach:

- Continuous change can be challenging for some team members.
- It requires dedicated involvement from all team members in daily meetings.
- Can be resource-intensive due to frequent communication and coordination.

Was Scrum-agile the Best Approach for SNHU Travel?

Considering the iterative nature of software development, the need for adaptability in response to changing market demands, and the benefits of continuous user feedback, the Scrum-agile approach proved to be the best fit for the SNHU Travel project. While it presented its challenges, the advantages of flexibility, transparency, and collaboration outweighed the drawbacks. The ability to adapt to changes made the Scrum-agile approach the most suitable choice for our development.

In conclusion, our Scrum-agile journey with the SNHU Travel project has been a valuable experience. It demonstrated the effectiveness of this approach in addressing changing requirements, fostering collaboration, and ensuring that the project aligns with the client's goals. The lessons learned from this project will be instrumental in guiding the broader organization's decision on adopting the Scrum-agile approach for future developments.