**Chada Tech: Sprint Review and Retrospective**

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CS 250: Software Development Lifecycle

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April 20, 2025

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  Throughout the SNHU Travel project, our Scrum-Agile Team operated under clearly defined roles that contributed directly to our success. As Scrum Master, I facilitated daily standups, removed blockers, and ensured the team followed Agile principles. During Sprint 2, when a developer faced integration issues with the third-party travel API, I coordinated a pairing session that led to a quick resolution without affecting the sprint goal. The Product Owner acted as the voice of the customer, providing a prioritized Product Backlog and ensuring that our user stories aligned with SNHU Travel’s vision. For example, they prioritized a mobile-friendly interface early after receiving feedback from potential users, which influenced our design sprint. The cross-functional development team was essential in turning user stories into working features. They demonstrated adaptability, especially when we had to pivot mid-project to add a last-minute feature for personalized travel recommendations.

            The Agile framework empowered our team to complete user stories efficiently by focusing on collaboration, iteration, and feedback. The development team broke down the user stories into manageable tasks using Planning Poker for estimation. In Sprint 1, the user story “As a user, I want to search for travel destinations based on my budget” was completed in under 4 days due to the team’s collective understanding and quick feedback cycles. Regular reviews ensured we validated user stories against acceptance criteria, avoiding rework and promoting transparency.

            Agile’s flexibility allowed us to handle disruptions effectively. Midway through Sprint 2, SNHU Travel requested integration with a loyalty points system, which was not in the original scope. Using the Agile mindset, we adjusted the Product Backlog, collaborated during the next sprint planning, and re-prioritized tasks. This pivot delayed one minor feature, but we delivered a more valuable product to the client by embracing Agile values of responding to change.

            Effective communication was a cornerstone of our team’s success. Here are examples of how we communicated and why it worked. Daily Standups: We held 15-minute virtual standups using Microsoft Teams. These helped identify blockers early and kept the team aligned. Asynchronous Updates: I posted end-of-day summaries on our shared Trello board, which allowed all team members to stay informed across time zones. Retrospective Feedback: I used anonymous surveys to gather honest feedback post-sprint. One comment, “I appreciated how blockers were addressed quickly without placing blame,” showed that our communication fostered a safe, collaborative space.

            Scrum events and tools played a key role in organizing our project. Sprint Planning: Helped us scope the right amount of work and align goals. Trello: Our main task-tracking board, organized into “Backlog,” “To Do,” “In Progress,” and “Done,” provided visual clarity and progress tracking. Burndown Chart: Showed real-time progress and helped us monitor velocity. Combined with Scrum ceremonies like Sprint Reviews and Retrospectives, these tools ensured ongoing alignment and continuous improvement.

            When evaluating the Agile process, there were advantages and disadvantages to using Scrum-Agile for SNHU Travel. Regarding the advantages, the flexibility allowed us to adapt to changing client needs. Frequent feedback loops improved the product quality. Team collaboration and accountability increased. Regarding the disadvantages, the only true noted disadvantage was that planning was less detailed than in a traditional model, causing some scope uncertainty.

            Overall, the Scrum-Agile approach was ideal for the SNHU Travel project. Its iterative nature allowed us to quickly respond to changes in user needs, deliver incremental value, and maintain constant communication. Had we used Waterfall, the last-minute loyalty system request would have required restarting the entire planning phase, delaying delivery.

            The Scrum-Agile approach enabled our team to deliver a functional, user-driven product within a dynamic environment. It promoted adaptability, teamwork, and ongoing feedback, all of which led to a successful pilot project and a strong case for adopting Scrum-Agile company-wide.