CS250 Sprint Review and Retrospective

Sean M Jetté

Southern New Hampshire University

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CS250 Sprint Review and Retrospective

# A. Demonstrate how the various roles on your Scrum-agile Team specifically contributed to the success of the SNHU Travel project.

In the SNHU Travel project, each Scrum role played a pivotal part in driving the project’s success. The Scrum Master facilitated communication and removed obstacles, ensuring that the team could focus on delivering high-quality work. For instance, as the Scrum Master, I coordinated daily stand-up meetings and sprint planning sessions, which were instrumental in keeping the team aligned and focused on our goals (Cobb, 2015). The Product Owner provided clarity on requirements and prioritized the product backlog, ensuring that the most valuable features were developed first (scrum.org, n.d.). The Development Team members, including developers and testers, executed the tasks, developed user stories, and conducted testing to meet the acceptance criteria provided by the Product Owner (Testing Frameworks Ltd., 2023). The effective collaboration among these roles, supported by Agile principles, significantly contributed to the SNHU Travel project’s success.

# B. Describe how a Scrum-agile approach to the SDLC helped each of the user stories come to completion.

In terms of the software development lifecycle, the Scrum-Agile approach enabled the successful completion of user stories by breaking down the SNHU Travel project into manageable sprints, fostering continuous communications, and promoting collaboration amongst team members (Schiel, n.d.). Some examples are where one user story involved implementing the search functionality for the travel booking system or another for narrowing results to specifics based on customer desires. According to Cobb (2015), Agile’s iterative process provides the tools for us to develop and evaluate these types of features incrementally, receiving feedback and making necessary adjustments along the way. This type of approach through Agile methodology ensured that we were able to deliver a functional and refined search feature that met user needs. Additionally, the flexibility of Agile also enabled us to accommodate changes in user requirements effectively, unlike with the Waterfall model where we would have required extensive rework and delay (TutorialsPoint, n.d.).

# C. Describe how a Scrum-agile approach supported project completion when the project was interrupted and changed direction.

The Scrum-Agile approach proved effective in managing changes in direction during the SNHU Travel project. When a notable change was introduced — transitioning from vacation sites to rehabilitation and wellness locations — Scrum’s flexibility allowed the team to adapt smoothly to the needed transition. For that event specifically, the Product Backlog was re-prioritized to include the new requirements, and adjustments were made during sprint planning to ensure that we met the objectives for rehabilitation and wellness locations. Utilizing the Agile process and the re-prioritization of our objectives ensured that the project remained on track despite the abrupt changes (Cobb, 2015). Scrum’s iterative cycles and regular reviews enabled the team to integrate such functionality efficiently for the development team. In contrast, a Waterfall approach would have required extensive rework of the entire project plan, potentially leading to delays and additional costs (Hoory, 2024) . In the end, Scrum’s adaptability allowed the SNHU Travel team to exceptionally manage any interruptions effectively while maintaining project momentum towards the finish line.

# D. Demonstrate your ability to communicate effectively with your team by providing samples of your communication.

Throughout the coursework and development of the SNHU Travel project, usage of effective communication was demonstrated through the usage of an email sent in Module 5, titled “Clarification Needed for SNHU Travel Booking Software Development.” This email was directed to key stakeholders and was used to seek clarification on several aspects of the project to ensure alignment. The email read:

**Subject: Clarification Needed for SNHU Travel Booking Software Development**

Dear Christy and Brian,

As we progress with the SNHU Travel booking software, I kindly request clarification on the following points to ensure project alignment:

* Could you provide detailed acceptance criteria for search and booking functionalities? This will guide our test case design.
* Please specify key scenarios for travelers and travel agents. These insights will shape our relevant test cases.
* Are there specific rules related to booking and payment processing? Detailed information will enhance our testing approach.

Your response will greatly assist our development process. Feel free to suggest a meeting if needed.

Thank you for your assistance.

Cheers,  
Sean

As a demonstration of effective communication, this email communicated the need for additional detailed information to guide development and testing. Specifically, by outlining areas for clarification, it ensured that all of our requirements were clearly understood and addressed. In my development of the email, I sought to provide a professional and courteous tone, along with the offer to arrange a meeting, encouraged collaboration and further discussion which demonstrating an understanding of the project's needs and fostering effective communication among team members and stakeholders.

# E. Evaluate the organizational tools and Scrum-agile principles that helped your team be successful.

The usage of several organizational tools and Scrum-Agile principles were essential for the success of the SNHU Travel project’s completion. To start, the Agile Team Charter provided a clear definition of the team’s objectives, roles, and responsibilities which ensured that all team members were aligned and understood their roles throughout the project. Additionally, the Product Backlog was essential for managing and prioritizing tasks, allowing the team to focus on delivering valuable features first. Another aspect that was useful in development was the use of user stories where we could define requirements in a clear and actionable manner, guiding the development process and ensuring that the final product met user needs. Moreover, test cases were used to validate that the SNHU Travel software met acceptance criteria and was free from defects, contributing to a high-quality product for our end users (Atlassian, n.d.). Scrum ceremonies, including daily stand-ups, sprint planning, and retrospectives, facilitated regular communication, progress tracking, and continuous improvement throughout the team.

The Agile Manifesto’s principles, such as collaboration, adaptability, and frequent delivery of working software, reinforced the effectiveness of these tools. Together, these tools and principles contributed to the project's success by maintaining focus, fostering teamwork, and ensuring alignment with client needs (Agile Alliance, 2023).

# F. Assess the effectiveness of the Scrum-agile approach for the SNHU Travel project.

## Describe the pros and cons that the Scrum-agile approach presented during the project.

The Scrum-Agile approach offered several significant advantages for the SNHU Travel project. Leveraging Agile principles, its inherent flexibility allowed the team to adapt smoothly to evolving requirements from the Product Owner, such as the major shift from focusing on top vacation locations to developing a niche application for rehabilitation and wellness destinations worldwide. This adaptability was essential for maintaining project momentum and effectively responding to stakeholder needs. To facilitate continued progress, regular sprint reviews provided continuous feedback, ensuring the project stayed aligned with stakeholder expectations and facilitating early identification and resolution of issues (Scrum.org, n.d.). Additionally, Scrum’s focus on collaboration through our daily stand-ups and regular meetings improved the necessary communication among team members by keeping everyone well-informed about project progress and potential challenges the team might face (Charles G. Cobb, 2015).

However, the Scrum-Agile approach is not without its own set of potential drawbacks. Specifically, the flexibility inherent in Scrum can ultimately lead to scope creep if new requirements are introduced without thorough evaluation, potentially affecting timelines and resource allocation (Martins, 2024). The frequent daily meetings and reviews within the Scrum-Agile approach, while valuable for gathering feedback, can ultimately be time-consuming and may require additional resources for documentation and coordination (Atlassian, n.d.). Moreover, Scrum’s effectiveness is heavily dependent on the team’s experience and adherence to Agile principles, which can vary and have a major impact on overall efficiency (Ries, 2011).

## Determine whether or not a Scrum-agile approach was the best approach for the SNHU Travel development project.

Within my experience throughout this course, the Scrum-Agile approach was well-suited for the SNHU Travel project. With its iterative nature, the Scrum-Agile approach allowed the team to accommodate the many changes in requirements and incorporate stakeholder feedback effectively. Also, the ability to adapt quickly to new needs and maintain frequent communication contributed to the project’s success; a challenge that the Waterfall methodology fails to accommodate. While there were challenges that we as a team would face, such as scope creep and increased resource demands, these were essentially managed through Scrum’s principles and practices. Compared to a Waterfall approach, which might have led to significant rework and delays in response to changes, Scrum’s flexibility and iterative cycles have essentially provided a more effective framework for managing the SNHU Travel project. And while there are many benefits within the Waterfall methodology, for this project specifically, Scrum-Agile was a more appropriate and effective approach for the development project.

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