SNHU Travel: Sprint Review and Retrospective

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Chada Tech has considered shifting all development teams from a traditional waterfall development approach to using the Agile methodology that utilizes the Scrum framework. The SNHU Travel development team was selected to test the Scrum-agile framework for feasibility, duration, cost, and risks before transitioning the entire organization. The Agile SDLC (Software Development Life Cycle) has similar phases as the traditional waterfall approach. The frequency that phases occur is the main difference between the Agile and Waterfall Models. The Agile methodology breaks up project development into multiple small iterations that consist of requirement analysis, designing, building, and testing. The small iterations in the Agile project development model are called Sprints and will repeat the same phases until the project meets its Definition of Done.

One of the most important concepts that the Chada Tech development team had to adapt to and focus on was restructuring their new Scrum team. The most significant change in restructuring the team was the interactions between the Product Owner, Development Team, stakeholders, client, and newly added Scrum Master. The traditional waterfall project management approach limited interactions between the Development Team, Product Owner, and stakeholders. The transition to the Agile methodology has significantly increased communication between all Scrum team members and its' peripherals.

The Product Owner had to adapt to the transition to Agile by increasing involvement with team interactions. Scrum events required the Product Owner to be accountable for the management, optimization, and presentation of the Product Backlog for the Scrum team. Throughout the Sprint, Christy, the Product Owner of the SNHU Travel application, had many meetings with the client, end-users, and development team to create and prioritize the Product Backlog. Christy was able to develop a clear vision statement from the initial meeting with the

client. Christy compiled user stories that clearly defined the subject, clause, task, and desired goal to optimize the Product Backlog after receiving input from SNHU Travel customers. The user stories created by Christy acted as a platform for communication in a simplified common language between the Development team and end-users. The user stories broke up the Sprint goal into small chunks for incremental development, which contributed to the success of the SNHU Travel project.

The SNHU Travel development team is enthusiastic about the increased interactions between the Product Owner, Stakeholders, and end-users. However, the development team had to overcome obstacles during the transition to the Agile project development methodology. The development team had to embrace and expect interruptions and changes made throughout project development. Nicole, the developer, and Brian, the tester, exceeded expectations throughout the SNHU Travel project and the transition to Agile. Toward the end of the Sprint, Christy informed the development team about a new trend in the travel sector. SNHU Travel wanted their new booking tool to focus on detox and wellness vacation packages to be on the cutting edge of the competitive industry. The development team's initial reaction was apprehensive they had many questions about what the updates to the booking tool will require. Christy explained that progress would not be lost, and the development team was at ease and accepted the changes to the project. Since the Agile SDLC are short iterations, it allowed the Scrum team to be flexible to make the changes requested by the client and accomplish all their goals for the Sprint. Nicole, the developer, reviewed the Product Backlog and identified that the slideshow feature that displayed the top five vacation destinations could be updated to match the new theme with the time left in the Sprint. The user stories in the Product Backlog provided by Christy aided Brian, the tester, in developing functional test cases for the slideshow feature containing specific user types, tasks,

and objectives. With the Agile project development model, testing is dynamic and performed frequently. Brian was able to update the test cases for the new updates to the slideshow feature that meet the acceptance criteria. The improved interactions between Scrum team members allowed Brian to communicate with Christy about requirements for the acceptance criteria and resulted in efficient results promptly. The development team worked together to update the features and test cases for the slideshow to fit the detox and wellness vacation package theme.

As the Scrum master for our new Scrum-agile team, I encouraged transparency, communication, and motivation throughout the development of the SNHU Travel project. I implemented organizational tools to improve communication and guide the success of the project. Scrum events such as Sprint Planning and Daily Scrum are vital tools that enhance communication, planning, and transparency. The Daily Scrum allowed the team to communicate daily for fifteen minutes to inform each other about what they have accomplished, plan to accomplish, and impediments to the project. The Daily Scrum allowed the team to be flexible, dynamic, and cross-functional. During the Daily Scrum, if someone had experience or expertise with a particular task, they could offer their assistance to work together to complete the task effectively. With the Agile methodology, I've learned that information is swiftly and dynamically changing and needed to implement an information radiator to share the information effectively. Our new Scrum-agile team created a large display in the meeting room to display real-time updates. In the transition to the Agile methodology, I discovered new tools that allowed our Scrum team to access the information radiator remotely or from their desk at work. I have experimented with Jira and Microsoft Azure Boards; both have tools designed to plan Sprints, track progress, and create user stories for Agile teams.

The transition to a Scrum-agile approach has changed my perspective of project management and development. A Scrum-agile development approach is perfect for small teams working on small to mid-size projects that may have interrupted changes and updates. The Scrum-agile methodology improves communication, flexibility, and the ability for a team to be cross-functional. Scrum events are effective for creating transparency, tracking progress, and accomplishing project goals. I strongly suggest transitioning more teams within Chada Tech to the Agile methodology that utilizes the Scrum framework. The downside to the Scrum framework is that it can become challenging to manage Scrum Events when the organization's size grows. Another downside is Daily Scrum can become tedious and frustrating for team members. There is a possibility that a Scrum team can lose focus of the true meaning of Agile, which is depicted in the Agile Manifesto, if experienced Scrum-agile team members are a part of that team.

References

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