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CS 250

Professor McWain

Module 7 Final Project

The SNHU Travel project was a collaborative effort aimed at developing a comprehensive travel booking platform. Throughout the project, our Scrum-agile team worked hard at applying agile principles and many Scrum methodologies to deliver value to our stakeholders. In this sprint review, we will analyze the contributions of various roles, assess the effectiveness of the Scrum-agile approach, and reflect on what was learned during the development process.

Each role within our Scrum-agile team played a crucial part in the success of the SNHU Travel project, product owner, scrum master, and the development team consisting of developers, designers, and testers. As the Product Owner, the main responsibility was to define the project vision, prioritize user stories, and ensure things are aligned between stakeholders and development efforts. For example, we collaborated with stakeholders to gather requirements for the booking system, which helped prioritize user stories. For the role of the Scrum Master, we facilitated sprint planning, daily stand-ups, sprint reviews, and retrospectives. It was ensured that the team adhered to Scrum principles and addressed any impediments they faced. For instance, we facilitated a retrospective where the team identified communication gaps and introduced a new channel for real-time collaboration, which improved team communication and productivity overall. Being a part of the development team made up of developers, designers, and other testers who worked to implement user stories and deliver working increments. For instance, developers implemented new features while designers created wireframes, and us testers performed end-to-end testing to ensure a strong quality.

The Scrum-agile approach played a crucial role in guiding our development efforts and ensuring the completion of user stories. During our many sprint planning sessions, user stories were broken down into smaller tasks, estimated their times, and assigned out to team members based on their skills and availability. For example, in one of our sprint planning sessions, the team estimated the complexity of using the user story for user authentication breaking it down into further tasks. Our daily stand-ups provided more open transparency into the team’s progress, identified any roadblocks, and facilitated collaboration. For example, during a stand-up, a developer mentioned they were facing a technical issue with integrating a third-party in their design, another team member with expertise helped, leading to a quicker resolution of the problem.

The flexibility of the Scrum-agile approach truly enabled our team to adapt to changes in project requirements or direction. Flexibility allowed the team to adapt to these changes in project requirements or priorities. When stakeholders requested the addition of a car rental feature, the Product Owner reprioritized the backlog, and the entire team adjusted their sprint goals accordingly. This flexibility ensured that the project could respond to changing needs. Retrospectives provided a forum for the team to reflect on their processes and identify areas for improvement. During a retrospective, the team recognized that frequent changes in requirements were affecting sprint goals. As a result, the Product Owner collaborated with stakeholders to stabilize requirements, reducing disruptions to sprint progress.

Effective communication was essential for the success of our Scrum-agile team. We instituted various communication channels and techniques to create more collaboration and ensure clarity across the team. Creating a dedicated Slack channel for project communication allowed team members to ask questions, share updates, and collaborate in real-time. This communication channel facilitated quick decision-making and problem-solving, making it accessible to all team members. By communicating clear sprint goals during sprint planning and daily stand-ups, we ensured that team members understood their priorities and aligned their efforts accordingly. The Product Owner communicated the sprint goal of implementing basic functionality, which helped focus the team's efforts on delivering specific features.

Our team leveraged organizational tools and Scrum-agile principles to streamline our development process and enhance collaboration. Jira served as our primary tool for managing the product backlog, sprint planning, and tracking sprint progress. The use of Jira helped visualize the workflow, track sprint velocity, and ensure transparency across the team. Also, our regular Scrum events such as sprint planning, daily stand-ups, sprint reviews, and retrospectives provided more structure to our development process. These events created collaboration, alignment, and continuous improvement throughout the project lifecycle.

The Scrum-agile approach proved to be effective for the travel project, but it also presented its own set of challenges. The Scrum-agile approach promoted collaboration, flexibility, and responsiveness to change. It facilitated development, early and continuous delivery of the software, and better engagement with stakeholders. It also encouraged self-organizing teams and provided a framework for continuous improvement. While this was great, the Scrum-agile approach required active participation and commitment from all team members. It could be challenging to balance short-term sprint goals with long-term project vision, especially in environments with evolving requirements. Managing stakeholder expectations and prioritizing user stories effectively required continuous communication and alignment which could prove challenging at some times.

All and all, the Scrum-agile approach played a significant role in the success of the travel project by promoting collaboration and flexibility. By leveraging the Scrum methodologies and organizational tools, our team effectively delivered working increments of the product, responded to changes needed for the project requirements, and maintained open, clear communication throughout the development process. While the Scrum-agile approach presented its own set of challenges, its benefits outweighed the drawbacks, making it the most suitable approach for our travel development project.