**CS250**

**Sprint Review and Retrospective**

**Steven Nave**

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The Agile Scrum methodology was a massively successful approach in handling the SNHU Travel project for Chada Tech. As the Scrum Master, I will review the specific details of how Scrum principles and practices seriously improved the team’s ability to deliver. In fact, it turns out that the Scrum-agile approach was the best fit for the SNHU Travel project specifically. This can be seen in the fact that despite the short time-block allowed for the entire project, we were able to maneuver efficiently within 1-week sprints to meet the needs of the customer. Additionally, due to the heavily collaborative environment with the client and Scrum team, we were able to not only within our time constraints determine requirements, user stories, test cases, and estimates, but also alter and adapt those as the client’s needs changed and new considerations arose. This would have simply been a disaster scenario for this exact project with a traditional Waterfall approach. A more traditional approach can certainly work in a number of scenarios, but it turned out that this was certainly not one of them.

Not only was there a high-level of collaboration between the client and the team, but the collaboration and communication within the team was crucial to the ability to operate in an Agile fashion. This was noticeable for me from the outset with Scrum Planning as well as during other Scrum Events. Within the Planning meeting, it was crucial that the Product Owner played their role in defining the vision and priorities of the SNHU Travel project. They continuously gathered feedback from stakeholders and ensured the team prioritized the most valuable features first and brought that knowledge to the rest of the team. As Scrum Master, I facilitated the Scrum process, and conducted daily Scrum, and the interaction within the team was great. When the Product Owner brought a change in requirements late in development to the developers and testers, there was a lively discussion about what could be kept, what could be altered, and what had to be dispensed with; all within a timely manner that got our team back on track. Without the Scrum framework, I do not believe the project would have been able to meet the requirements on time.

In addition to the communication and collaboration during the Daily Scrum events, the sense of cohesion on the team allowed for more detailed communication between testers, developers, and the Product Owner for further clarification about specific user stories and test cases meeting the actual requirements for the client. After all, it isn’t particularly useful to develop features and products that are not being asked for. Emails and messages within the team were used frequently for clarifying questions about specific details, but there was also the use of software tools, like Jira, to act as the “information radiator” for all to see the progress and prioritization during the sprints as well as within the requirements of the entire project. Utilizing the Kanban process board in Jira allowed the team to be on the same page and make updates in real-time when user stories, test cases, features and the like were being completed or stymied.

As mentioned before, there was a significant amount of progress being made on the original requirements for the SNHU Travel team when mid-sprint, the client made clear to the Product Owner they needed to shift the focus of the vacation destinations to the detox and wellness category. The ability to handle interruptions in the team was very high, after the initial shock of realizing they had last minute maneuvers to make, the Product Owner quickly made the appropriate updates in the backlog, and the team was able to see on the Kanban board the progress of the team on the agreed upon changes from the Daily Scrum meeting. This ability to handle interruptions and changes stems from the focus of Scrum on the importance of being open and honest about inconvenient truths rather than hiding troublesome or contentious information from others on the team. The collaboration and effectiveness of the team highly depends on it. Not only, but especially when certain features or team members are failing to meet certain expectations, so that others in the team can flex over to help guide the team member.

Overall the Agile process is precisely what is needed for projects of this nature that require flexibility, transparency, and collaboration. Despite the potentially time-consuming nature of regular meetings and documentation, the Scrum time-block keeps these considerations as brief as possible without being useless. Another potential issue with the Scrum methodology is how heavily team-dependent it is. The team will succeed or fail together. Although, it seems that this works to the benefit of the team, especially if they are going to work together for an extended time. The cohesion and expertise of the team will only increase in their cross-functionality and ability to work specifically with each other. This helps feed right back into the collaboration of Scrum, and a more open and honestly transparent environment, allowing the team to approach issues and setbacks with a united goal and vision, especially with moving goalposts.

As stated above, it turns out that Scrum-Agile was very much the right approach for the Chada Tech team and especially for the SNHU Travel Project. It will serve the team well into the future.