Sprint Review and Retrospective: ChadaTech

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CS-250

Our members and each of their roles on our Scrum-Agile Team have attributed to the success of our project for SNHU Travel. As Scrum Master, I used my understanding of Agile practices to facilitate the team’s success by organizing the team meetings and guiding the Daily Scrum so each person on our team was able to share progress and ask questions. I had to be aware of all the challenges that we encountered during development and was tasked with keeping the team focused on their workload while promoting and open collaborative environment. Our Product Owner was responsible for working with the customer to develop the Product Backlog of user stories and building the product vision to reflect the requests and suggestions from SNHU Travel. The Product Owner was also tasked with communicating this information to the team to help them understand the customer needs and project goals. Our Team Members were also tasked with an important role as they oversaw the creative and technical aspect of the project, using their skillsets to develop the product and maintaining the project goals and vision. Each member of our team used communication to collaborate effectively and achieve our goals during each Sprint.

During our SDLC, user stories were completed with Sprint Planning and Reviews, along with the use of Daily Scrums. Each Sprint Plan allowed for user stories to be analyzed, estimated, and categorized based on priority as well as the team’s comfortability on the topic. These user stories were than rated through Agile planning techniques such as Planning Poker or other rating systems to visual asses each user story’s estimation. Daily Scrums allowed for team communication to catch up on team progress as well as address achievements and any questions team members may have on the project or their workload. Sprint Reviews provided feedback from stakeholders on the project and to update any existing user story to feature new issues.

Our team were faced with project interruptions during development and handled them effectively to include new changes that reflected the customers updated needs. During our development, our client provided feedback that they would like to update their travel destination selection to include destinations that promoted health and wellness. While our team members were worried that our project timeline and development would be altered heavily, the team was responsible for adapting to a news Sprint plan to ensure the can get acclimated with the new priorities. Each member performed the required alterations to provide the client with their exact request and in a timely manner, so no schedule or goal was missed.

Clear communication was an important element for our team as it served as one of the key components for Agile’s success during this project’s development. Agile’s methodology praises concise and clear communication to promote effective collaboration and avoid any ambiguity and misinterpretation. This is implemented for the whole team as it allows team members to ask questions and collaborate without making their thoughts too complex. Ultimately, the use of Daily Scrum meetings allowed for open discussion within the team to share project ideas, questions, and goals while allowing other members to have input on any issues, thus promoting a creative problem-solving approach.

Our team used a variety of organizational tools that adhered to Scrum principles and guided us to our desired results. For our Product Backlog, we used a Product Backlog software to organize user stories and sort the on priority as well as keeping track of our progress towards each desired goal. The use of Product Backlog software allowed for a clear understanding on our goal time estimates and to keep us on track with our plans for the project. We also made use of burndown charts that showed our work progress towards project goals by representing the work that we have completed compared to the work that we had left in regard to our dedicated timeframe. The use of these tools provided us with additional information and organization during the project’s development and proved to be a useful tool for our team.

The use of the Agile framework for our project has yielded successful results and is a method that we will be looking to utilize in future projects for clients. Agile has improved our communication as a team with not only our clients but with each team member. The reason for this is due to the benefits of Scrum and its ability to promote a collaborative and open atmosphere to share insight and ask questions. Its adaptability with allowing stakeholder feedback to better the products relevance and quality to the customer is also an important communication tool that Agile possesses. Agile’s flexibility allows for projects to be adapted to any incoming changes and makes it so teams can plan and communicate effectively around them through organizational tools and communication methods.

However, Agile does not come without its drawbacks that set it back from being a perfect project approach method. While Agile is known for its adaptability for projects, it can also lead to a lack of predictability for projects, which may lead to inconsistences from team members who are not used to the Agile method. Team collaboration is an essential aspect to Agile, so for team members who are more independent work-minded, they might see a decrease in results when utilizing Agile. Agile’s framework follows short term sprints, or development cycles, instead of long-term visions. This could lead to product miscommunication during the development process along with incorrect resource planning in certain areas.

For our SNHU Travel project, the Agile approach was successful when utilized correctly. When compared to other approaches such as Waterfall, Agile’s adaptability was useful to us in certain situations. It’s key elements of effective communication across all team roles and input from stakeholders created concise information that worked well for our project and helped us in our sprint progress.