**Cs 250 - Sprint Retrospective**

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CS 250

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Shifting from waterfall to agile is well known to be an extremely difficult process, your team has to push aside all the old ways they were doing things and replace them with new ways. Deciding how that will work and how you’ll implement agile is a massive challenge, but I believe that my team has risen above and beyond what was expected of them.

From the very beginning we were working together very closely, the product owner, myself the scrum master, the developer, and the tester were all communicating about how to produce the SNHU Travel App to satisfy customer needs. A lot of good ideas were thrown around, not all of them stuck. At one point in the project, we learned that the clients needs had suddenly changed. SNHU travel saw research that indicated shifting the market towards wellness and detox trips. A lot of work had to be tossed out, but that was okay, because we had properly conformed to agile practices. We were always focusing on producing functioning software, building out the most important parts of the app first, and then adding in functionality as needed. This means that not too much had to be changed, and our developer was ready to make those changes.

Through the application of user stories we were able to compress work into smaller, more modular pieces. We set priorities on the functionality the client wanted most, specifically the ability to display top travel locations for users. We determined that out of all the functionality that would be the biggest project as well as the most critical part of developing the app, thus it was also first on our to do list. If we were still operating under waterfall that functionality may have been added in the beginning or possibly even the end. In other words, any hiccup to the production and the app wouldn’t have been able to ship. With agile design methodology we don’t need to worry about that.

We’ve also practiced being open and having good communication with each other. We have a daily scrum meeting, and any blockages we have are dealt with. If there’s any other problems, you can always shoot an email to whoever you need to get in touch with. There was one case, when our tester needed to get in touch with our developer about ui design. All they needed was a short email, what they needed, why they needed it, that’s it. No special formality or red tape. Work gets done.

On the subject of tools, of course the scrum events were vital, but I wonder if the use of software like Jira for product management may have made things more streamlined. I think the use of software to assist in managing the product development has a lot of value. That being said, setting up sprints and sprint reviews makes a huge difference in the organization of the project. This sprint retrospective as well, I hope will also provide value. Hopefully the work we’ve done here will provide valuable data for the rest of the company in making the shift toward being agile.

And with that said, I’d now like to discuss some ways we might improve. The Scrum Agile process has a lot of value, and it made this project possible. With it, we were able to easily prioritize work and keep our systems efficient. That being said, I actually think that a just kanban would have been more beneficial for this project. We spent a lot of time and resources on scrum ceremonies and worrying about transparency, but for a team as small as ours I don’t think it’s really necessary. We only had one developer and one tester. There’s no real need to worry about fostering really strong teamwork, people are working so closely together anyways. It’s just a bit wasteful. Not only that, but scrum is generally more intensive to set up and train people for, I suppose it’s a little strange for me to be saying this as the scrum master, but scrum isn’t always the answer for agile product management.

That being said, scrum did get us through the project, and who can say what could have gone wrong otherwise. All in all, my team did excellent work on the product, and I believe that agile needs to be implemented throughout the company. I can say with the utmost sureness that the transition will be rocky, but I can also say that it will definitely benefit the company long term. I highly recommend that every team switch over to agile as soon as possible