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**CS 250**

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**Final Project Reflection / Retrospective**

There were countless examples of how the various roles within the Scrum-Agile Team served to contribute to the success of the SNHU Travel Project. For example, there was one instance where we were asked to change the theme of the SNHU Travel Project to one that presented prospective clients with the top five relaxation and wellness vacation package offerings. This was somewhat of a major change from what we were working on at first. This modification required all members of the team including the Scrum Master, the Product Owner, the Developers, and the Testers. This was possible, however, given the fact that we used a Scrum-Agile project management strategy rather than a Scrum-Waterfall project management approach. With this strategy, we were able to take direction from the Scrum Master and Product Owner. We used developers to make the actual modifications that were necessary to reflect the change from “Top Five Destinations” to the “Top Five Relaxation / Wellness Vacations”. We then were able to use testers to ensure that the desired modifications were completed successfully and did not cause any unforeseen issues moving forward.

There were many ways in which a Scrum-Agile approach to the software development lifecycle helped us to complete the various user stories taken from the product backlog. Many of these examples had to do with filtering the list of available vacation packages from the SNHU Travel Agency. For example, when we were asked to filter the list of available vacation packages to only show the user a list of available packages that fit their user profile and activities that they would be interested in, we were able to use the Scrum-Agile approach to extract details of that request. We were then able to put it into a development phase and test the product. We were then able to use that methodology to implement different filters to the list from the product backlog including popular locations, type of vacation, and set price limits on the vacations packages to be displayed.

Coming back to the request to change the vacation packages displayed form the “Top Five Destinations” to the “Top Five Relaxation / Wellness Vacations”, we needed to change our philosophy on the project in some ways. For example, we were able to use the Scrum-Agile project management approach to send the requested changes to development. From there we were able to have the product testers test the product to make sure that there weren’t any issues with the change from the vacation package offerings. We were able to do this using the Scrum-Agile project management approach rather than the Waterfall project management approach because unlike the Waterfall project management approach, the Scrum-Agile project management approach allows us to complete the project in iterations that are easy to go back on and make modifications within rather than scrapping the entire project and starting fresh again.

I believe that when it comes to creating a Scrum-Agile Team, we must all work together as a team and have input at all stages rather than just being told what to do. Without that happening, it starts to feel like you are being bossed around and TOLD what to do. I took a different approach to this and as the Scrum Master, I decided to include all of the team members in the Scrum Charter creation as shown below. I felt that given the flexibility of the Scrum-Agile program management approach intends, I helped to make us a more flexible team and better execute the various tasks required to start a project.

“Hello team,

One of the major principles of agile development is the creation and following of a team charter. These will be the ground rules that we follow throughout all of the sprints we accomplish. This should be formatted as a brainstorming session, so feel free to mention any ground rules you feel we should follow and the team will discuss the inclusion of that.

Russ”

I believe that the inclusion of an information radiator was essential to the successful completion of the project. I feel that an information radiator helps to keep to project in the proper perspective. This has everything to do with transparency between teams and management. With the information radiator, we were able to display current project status. We also would have used a product backlog to indicate the more pressing issues facing the team and what needed to be done in individual teams as a team as a whole.

When it comes to finding the right tool for the job, there will always be pros and cons to each tool that you select. When it comes do to the SNHU Travel Agency project, I believe that the Scrum-Agile project management approach was the right choice. The pros of choosing this project management methodology over the Waterfall project management approach greatly outweighed the cons. For example, when it comes to creating an interactive and dynamic website that serves to provide a service to a consumer, I believe that it is best to assume that there will be some sort of major change that you will need to adapt to and overcome. In this project the challenge that we had to adapt to and overcome was the changing of the displaying of the “Top Five Vacations” to the displaying of the “Top Five Relaxation / Wellness Vacations”. If we were developing this website using a Waterfall approach, we likely would have had to change the entire project and started form the beginning. However, given the fact that we were using the Scrum-Agile project management approach, we were able to modify the product backlog and adjust and create appropriate user stories from that information which helped to affect that desired change without having to start over. We were then able to develop those changes and test them to ensure that they were feasible.