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Final Project

Throughout the development of the SNHU Travel application, each Scrum role played a part in ensuring the project’s success. As part of a simulated Agile development team, I had the opportunity to take on various roles, including Product Owner, Developer, and Scrum Master. Each role provided unique insights into the Scrum framework and highlighted the importance of cross-functional collaboration.

As the Product Owner, I focused on defining the product vision and maintaining the product backlog. I prioritized features that aligned with SNHU Travel’s goals of expanding its client base using innovative digital tools. For example, I created and refined user stories such as, “As a user, I want to search for vacation packages by destination and budget so that I can easily find affordable options.” These clear, concise stories provided the development team with a strong foundation for implementation.

While acting as a Developer, I translated the user stories into functional components. I participated in daily stand-ups, where I provided updates on my progress and flagged any blockers. This allowed for early detection of issues and collaborative problem-solving. When I transitioned to the Scrum Master role, I facilitated Scrum ceremonies and removed impediments that hindered progress, ensuring that the team remained focused and productive.

Using the Scrum-Agile approach significantly contributed to the successful completion of user stories. By breaking the project into manageable sprints, the team could focus on delivering incremental value. The iterative nature of Agile allowed for frequent feedback and quick adjustments, which kept the user stories aligned with SNHU Travel’s needs.

For example, one of our initial user stories required users to create profiles to receive personalized recommendations. During the Sprint Planning meeting, the team broke this story down into smaller tasks—creating the UI, connecting the backend, and testing the feature. During the Sprint Review, we demoed the feature and received feedback suggesting that social login options would enhance usability. This feedback was added to the backlog for future development. The Scrum framework’s adaptability made it possible to respond to these insights efficiently.

The Agile framework proved especially valuable when handling interruptions and shifting project requirements. Midway through the project, SNHU Travel requested that we integrate a last-minute travel deal feature into the homepage, which required reprioritizing the backlog. Rather than disrupting the entire development flow, the Scrum process allowed us to pivot smoothly.

During the next Sprint Planning session, the team reviewed the backlog and adjusted priorities accordingly. Lower-priority items were postponed, and the new feature was broken down into manageable tasks for implementation. Daily stand-ups helped track our progress and allowed team members to voice any challenges related to the sudden change. This flexibility ensured the team remained productive and aligned with client expectations, despite the change in direction.

Effective communication was a cornerstone of the team’s success throughout the SNHU Travel project. For example, we facilitated daily stand-ups where each team member provided quick updates, shared blockers, and offered support. This format encouraged collaboration and accountability. Digital task boards can be created using tools like Slack to keep the team informed and aligned. These tools enable asynchronous updates and keep documentation centralized, helping everyone stay on the same page and reducing the need for lengthy meetings.

Several Scrum-Agile tools and principles were instrumental in supporting the team’s workflow and organization. Key Scrum events—Sprint Planning, Daily Stand-Ups, Sprint Reviews, and Retrospectives—helped maintain structure and clarity throughout the project.

The product backlog served as the foundation for planning each sprint, while our burndown chart tracked progress and kept motivation high. Using tools like Jira or Trello for task management provides transparency and facilitates prioritization. Retrospectives allowed the team to reflect on what went well and what needed improvement. For example, during one retrospective, we identified that task estimates were sometimes inaccurate. As a result, we adjusted our estimation techniques by using story points based on team consensus.

The Scrum-Agile methodology offered both strengths and challenges for the SNHU Travel project. On the positive side, the approach promoted collaboration, flexibility, and continuous delivery of value. It also enabled us to adapt quickly to changing requirements and maintain close communication with the client through feedback loops.

However, there were also some drawbacks. The time commitment for regular ceremonies sometimes felt intensive, especially when team members were balancing multiple roles. Additionally, the lack of formal documentation at the outset made it harder to maintain long-term traceability, which would be beneficial for maintenance and scalability in future updates.

Overall, I believe the Scrum-Agile approach was highly effective for this project. The evolving nature of SNHU Travel’s goals, coupled with the need for quick iterations and customer feedback, made Agile a suitable framework. The process fostered a collaborative team environment and produced a high-quality product that met the client’s needs.

The experience of using Scrum-Agile for the SNHU Travel project demonstrated the value of iterative development, team collaboration, and adaptability. Through clearly defined roles, effective communication, and structured Scrum events, the team was able to complete a successful project. Based on this pilot, I would recommend that ChadaTech consider adopting the Scrum-Agile framework across all development teams. While there are areas for improvement, the benefits to product quality and team cohesion far outweigh the drawbacks.