**Scott Cain**

**CS250 Module Seven Final Project**

**Professor: Erin Jasmine**

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During our project for the SNHU Travel booking tool, our team started with a waterfall approach and then changed to the Scrum-Agile method. I believe this resulted in a better final product, more adaptability for better control of task completion, and allowed it to be completed in a quicker method by addressing issues as they are found with testing. By becoming a Scrum-Agile team we were able to adapt user stories, handle interruptions, provide better communication, and use organizational tools that we did not have access to before.

Each Scrum-Agile team role had their contribution to the project and its success. Christy, the Product Owner was using clear communication with the stakeholders as well as the team to keep the project aligned with the stockholders at all times. When Christy had a regular meeting with the stakeholders and they changed the focus of the booking tool to detox and wellness travel, Christy was able to pivot the task and clearly state what is now needed while also lowering other task priorities. This shift was able to be done with the Scrum-Agile method within the original time frame for completion.

Nicole the developer evaluated the current state of the project’s features and provided feedback on what could be realistically achieved within the remaining time frame. This assessment was needed for Christy to know what needs to be re-prioritizing tasks and ensuring that the most critical features needed to be developed first. Nicole was then allowed to focus on new tasks, or the most important features needed to keep on a realistic schedule.

Brian the tester changed his test cases to align with the new focus on detox and wellness travel. He updated the test cases for the “Top Five Destination List” to the “Top Five Wellness Destination List”. He then made sure that each destination listing included a picture, a short description, and a link to the top travel-package-deal booking. His flexibility and testing as Nicole developed helped make sure the new features met the stakeholder's standards without lowering the overall quality of the application.

As for myself as the Scrum Master, I help where needed, organize meetings, and having the team use the new Scrum practices. I addressed concerns about the project schedule, helping the team to stay on track even when we had to pivot and jump in where needed to keep on schedule.

The Scrum-Agile approach was extremely effective in bringing user stories to completion. The user story when we were focused on the booking feature was broken down into smaller, manageable tasks. This allowed the team to make small steps in the progress and receive continuous feedback. This allowed the team to refine the features and able to meet user needs.

The best strength of using the Scrum-Agile approach is its ability to adapt and change the direction of the project. When SNHU Travel decided to have a focus on detox and wellness travel the team was able to quickly re-prioritize the backlog and adjust the sprint goals. This flexibility with the project allowed the team to meet the client's needs while staying within the project's initial timeframe.

Communication was increased and allowed for quicker completion tasks. Regular updates in sprint reviews made sure the entire team were on the same page. Christy’s clear communication about the new project focus helped the team understand the importance of the pivot and work collaboratively towards the new goal. This open communication made collaboration easy and allowed a quick resolution of any issues.

In an email to Christy and Brian, I sought clarification on the new focus and its requirements, updated test cases, and the impact on current tasks. This proactive communication helped ensure that I understood what was changing and was able to communicate and answer any questions to the team to keep us within the project timeframe.

Practicing daily stand-ups was one of the key communication strategies that we used. These brief meetings allowed the team to review tasks, address issues, and adapt quickly to changes. When the focus shifted to wellness destinations, the daily stand-ups enabled the team to pivot and discuss changes as well as assign tasks and explain what is done and what needs to be completed.

The sprint retrospective was also another communication method that we used. It provided a platform for feedback and allowed us to continuously improve. If user stories lacked the criteria necessary to complete the project, the retrospective let the team address these missing components promptly and then complete it with all requirements met.

The use of organizational tools and Scrum-Agile principles was great addition and was vital for our success. We used Jira for task management, and Confluence for documentation. These tools, along with Scrum events such as daily stand-ups, sprint planning, sprint reviews, and retrospectives, helped maintain focus and adapt to changes.

Jira was an effective tool since it allowed the team to break down the project into smaller tasks, assign them based on priority, and monitor progress in real-time. Kanban board was my favorite tool since it provided a visual guide to the sprint backlog, making it easy to see what tasks needed to be worked on, who was responsible, and what still needed to be completed. This visual representation helped the team stay organized and focused on the larger picture of the project.

If we had used a waterfall development method the process would have been linear and would have to complete each phase before moving on to the next. Being this rigid can be a disadvantage when requirements change mid-project, as it did with the SNHU Travel project. When SNHU Travel decided to shift the focus to detox and wellness travel, a waterfall approach would have required us to review all the work done so far and possibly redo earlier phases. This would have caused huge delays and increased costs.

When choosing between a waterfall or an Agile approach I had to think of different factors that influenced the project. Agile is better for complex projects or projects that have the potential to change focus. Waterfall should be used for simple well-defined projects only. With Agile having Stakeholder meetings and involvement allows the project to meet their requirements as well as adapt to input. Having these meetings as part of the Agile approach lets you adapt to their needs and has a product that will align closer to the needs of the Stakeholders than with the waterfall method. This leads to the flexibility of Agile and its adaptability. It is ideal for projects where changes are expected or to be better prepared if there is a sudden shift in focus. The waterfall is too linear and can’t adapt. Agile is also better for timelines and budgets. It helps to lower the risks of mistakes or the team going in the wrong direction.

Based on my course experience, the Agile approach was the best choice for the SNHU Travel project. The project’s changing in focus and the need for frequent adjustments fit perfectly with Agile’s flexibility. Agile allowed us to adapt to changing requirements, let the stakeholders weigh in on the product as it was being developed, and produce a product that met their evolving needs.