 7-1 Final Project- Sprint Review and Retrospective

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In today's fast-paced business world, adaptability and informed decision-making are crucial. When reflecting, the SNHU Travel project is a prime example of the necessity for flexible and efficient development methodologies, like Scrum Agile. Agile's iterative and incremental development methods effortlessly facilitated the implementation of improvement requests for the project. Scrum, a widely used framework, prioritizes adaptability, teamwork, and continuous improvement, making it an incredibly productive and pragmatic approach for contemporary development projects such as SNHU Travel (Scrum.org, 2023).

Collaboration is a crucial aspect of Agile frameworks like Scrum. Team members work together through daily stand-ups, sprint reviews, team meetings, and retrospectives to stay in sync and continuously improve processes, leading to better decision-making and project success (Iqbal, 2022). This was evident in the success of the SNHU Travel Scrum team, which consisted of a Scrum Master, Tester, Developer, and Product Owner. The product owner Christy focused primarily on representing the customer and guiding the product vision's development. She managed the Product Backlog and decided which enhancements, features, and bug fixes to prioritize throughout the product development process. She communicated and refined the items on the Product Backlog transparently, maximizing the value of the development team's work and maintaining transparency throughout the process. Christy provided valuable feedback to the development team, which we used to enhance and prioritize user stories and features. During a team meeting, Christy shared feedback from the client, which led to changes in the prioritization of user stories, focusing on detox/wellness travel. Agile methodologies allow teams to make changes quickly without significant delays (Scrum.org, 2023). The SNHU Travel Scrum team demonstrated this by adding the enhancements to the client's site without altering the project deadline and updating test cases efficiently. Additionally, as the team's Scrum Master, I oversaw the Scrum process, ensuring that the team followed its principles and agreed-upon practices. I helped to facilitate communication, collaboration, and conflict resolution within the team. I encouraged the team to meet and discuss priorities through Daily Stand-ups while ensuring that the team adhered to Scrum principles and practices. In addition, I coached and organized Scrum adoption and facilitated Scrum events to ensure maximum productivity. I provided a structured framework for completing the Sprint workload and encouraged progress toward Sprint goals (Cobb, 2015, p. 5).

The SNHU Development team was the driving force behind the software development. The development team included individuals with diverse skill sets, focused on delivering a minimum viable product increment at the end of each sprint. The key responsibilities of the SNHU development team were collaboratively developing and providing potentially releasable increments, managing the technical aspects of the development project, and maintaining high quality through continuous improvement.

Moreover, the Scrum methodology is valuable for breaking down complex projects into smaller, more manageable tasks (Scrum.org, 2023). Agile teams can use this approach to deliver a minimum viable product in less time than traditional methods. SNHU Travel successfully demonstrated the effectiveness of this approach by starting with an initial assessment of user stories, which formed the foundation of our software development process. The SNHU Travel development team created simple user stories that defined features and functionality from the end user's perspective. These stories outlined the user, value, and desired outcome in an easy-to-understand format (Cobb, 2015, p. 65). Using the Scrum Agile approach, the team could better understand the end user's needs, make informed decisions, and successfully complete each SNHU Travel user story.

Further, Agile emphasizes the importance of embracing change. In Scrum, work is organized into short sprints lasting two to four weeks, allowing teams to review progress, reassess priorities, and make necessary adjustments to accommodate changes (2022, Agile Modeling). This approach was demonstrated in the SNHU Travel project when the development team adjusted priorities and implemented new vacation types based on client requests. Scrum also encourages communication and collaboration among team members and stakeholders to ensure alignment with customer expectations. In the project, feedback from the Product Owner was used to update project objectives, allowing users to edit profile preferences through web and mobile applications. The Scrum Agile approach significantly benefited project management, allowing the team to quickly adjust and respond to new requirements while maintaining high productivity and consumer satisfaction.

Also, within a Scrum team, effective communication is absolutely crucial. It is the backbone of the entire framework, ensuring that everyone is working towards completing the project and on the same page. Both written and verbal communication channels are absolutely essential in facilitating these activities. Transparent communication encourages trust among team members, reduces misunderstandings, and promotes innovation (Scrum.org, 2023).

As the Scrum Master, I ensured that my communication gathered all the necessary details regarding the "schematics associated with the requested data" (please see sample email below). Whether it was to clarify project objectives, client enhancement requests for different vacation types, or editable mobile features, I communicated actively and assertively with my team and Product Owner. This included participating in team meetings, sending questionnaires, and facilitating video conferences with SNHU Travel’s Product Owner. Effective communication was a powerful Scrum Agile technique that we leveraged for the SNHU Travel project, which led to successful completion, improved team performance, and, ultimately, better project outcomes.

Effective implementation of Scrum involves utilizing organizational tools to promote efficient collaboration, communication, and project execution. Popular examples of organizational tools include Task Management tools such as Trello and Asana, Project Management tools like JIRA, and Communication platforms such as Microsoft Teams or real-time communication (Cobb, 2015, p. 143). The organizational tools the SNHU Travel team used were real-time communication and the JIRA project management tool. These tools enabled the team to track tasks, log impediments, and report progress toward project completion.

To fully leverage Scrum, choosing the right tools that facilitate communication, collaboration, and tracking is critical. I encouraged the SNHU Travel team to utilize agile principles throughout the use of these organizational tools. Agile principles prioritize flexibility, collaboration, and continuous improvement in project management. This approach was applied throughout all real-time communication, including sprint planning and daily stand-up meetings. Agile principles were used during these events to guide task prioritization and emphasize transparency and active communication for continuous improvement.

The SNHU Travel development team successfully accomplished the project by employing organizational tools and following Agile principles. Moreover, we utilized the Scrum framework for project management to monitor progress, encourage teamwork, and adjust to changes.

Throughout the SNHU project, we found that the Scrum Agile approach had both advantages and disadvantages. One major advantage was the ability to quickly adapt to changes using user stories, which helped to reduce the risk of project failure caused by unforeseen circumstances (Cobb, 2015, p. 250). The flexibility of the approach allowed us to stay focused on delivering value to the end user while still following the project plan. However, the team faced some challenges when it came to changing vacation types towards the end of the project, which caused frustration among the developers. Despite this, the Scrum Agile approach promotes collaboration, innovation, and adaptability, which ultimately led to faster completion of the customer-centric SNHU Travel project. Although there were some challenges along the way, the Scrum Agile approach was the best option for a project that was constantly evolving like SNHU Travel.

***SAMPLE COMMUNICATION HAD WITH TEAM MEMBERS:***

***To: Christy***

***Subject: User Story Clarification***

***Dear Christy,***

***Our development team is eager to improve your website's user experience and accessibility by implementing some exciting updates that will allow for easier management of user profiles. We value your input and kindly request your assistance in determining the project's complexity and prioritizing key features. Your feedback will help address all stakeholders' needs and provide a successful, well-rounded experience.***

***Call to action: We would greatly appreciate it if you could provide us with your thoughts and feedback on these modifications. You can do so by completing the below questionnaire or responding to this email.***

***Questionnaire***

1. ***Kindly provide more specific details regarding the schematics associated with the requested feature.***
2. ***Should users have the ability to edit all profile preference fields through both the web and mobile app***

***The development team appreciates your ongoing support and partnership and would like to extend their gratitude to you. We believe the significant enhancements to your website will greatly improve your end users' experience while making innovation, ease, and accessibility more streamlined.***

***Kind Regards,***

***Shenika***

**References**

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