Final Project

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CS 250

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Sprint Review

First, I would like to congratulate each of the members of the team for an excellent job done on this project. The development team did a terrific job turning our clients’ ideas into a functional and attractive product. There were some changes along the way, and our developers were able to navigate the shift towards wellness destinations seamlessly. Thank you as well to our product owner for being responsive and available for our development team throughout the Sprint. When our developers needed clarification, he was quick to answer all our questions via email. As the Scrum Master for project, I hope that I have supported collaboration between our product owner and development in a way that everyone has benefitted from.

Throughout the course of this project, we have seen each of the user-stories come to life and evolve. Our “Top Five Destinations List” story came to life and then transformed into a list of top five detox destinations. Both our list view and slideshow view travel sites reflect the top five list in a visually attractive way and makes the top five list prominent to the user. Our “Customized Travel Profiles” story supports those detox destinations seamlessly and allows for the user’s previous travel to be reflected in the top five suggestions. Finally, we have also seen our “Deals Based on Profile” user story blend effortlessly in our project throughout this Sprint when the user logs in and creates a profile within the site. These user preferences are integrated into the top five destination that are suggested to the user when the users travel preferences are specified.

I believe that an Agile approach was the correct choice for this project as we have seen our team respond flexibly to the evolution of the project. Had we followed a waterfall method, our product may have been significantly delayed when the product was interrupted by a change in direction toward more wellness destinations. Due to our Agile-Scrum approach and effective team communication, when the project shifted directions, our minimalistic software supported the changes without many side effects and our development team made it happen. Also, though our daily standup meetings and email communication our Scrum Team expressed their questions and need for clarification as issues arose. I want to thank our product owner and tester for being available throughout the Sprint when the team had questions. Had we followed a Waterfall method from the start, I wonder if our team would have been able to get the kind of answers that they needed in time to make the desired changes to the site. It looks like we made an excellent choice, and we have a solid product to show for our hard work.

Sprint Retrospective Notes

We have come a long way with our product over the course of the Sprint and I want to thank everyone for their participation in our daily Scrum meetings. I hope that I have supported every member of this team and have helped to facilitate communication between the Scrum Team and stakeholders. I couldn’t have done it however without the help of this team and their effective communication with each other. Through Sprint planning meetings, daily standup meetings, and our Sprint Review meeting our team has shown their ability to work well with one another, collaborate, and get things done in a productive way. We have also benefitted from our Kanban boards (though Kanban is not usually considered to be a Scrum tool per-se) that have helped us to visualize our progress and tasks throughout the Sprint. Though our product perhaps narrowed some from the original vision, our Sprint Planning meeting was an invaluable event that paved the way for the success of the entire Sprint. Without each of our meetings, our product could not have evolved as successfully as it did. While our team is all present, I wanted to showcase an example of excellent communication sent out by our development team:

*Sample: Email to Product Owner and Tester*

*Subject: Moving Forward with Detox and Wellness Destinations*

*To: Christy, Brian*

*From: Shera Adams, Developer*

*Hello Christy and Brian. We are excited about the new shift toward wellness locations and have begun some of the initial work to move the project in this direction, but we were looking for clarification in the process and hoped that you might be able to answer a few of our questions. First, are the wellness destinations to be packaged and marketed as a hotel or resort style package or is the destination itself the product? Should we be focusing on the Egypt and the pyramids and Egypt as a destination or should we be focusing on a specific detox center located in Egypt for example. Additionally, are there other destinations featured elsewhere on the site (ski, casino, cruise) or just the wellness and detox destinations? Thank you in advance for the clarification. We look forward to working with the new changes.*

*Regards,*

*Shera Adams, Developer*

Instead of continuing her work on the project in the dark with questions about the project’s shift in direction, our developer reached out to the product owner as well as our tester to get clarification on the work to be accomplished. On any project like this one, going forward, our team needs to be just as proactive as this example to ensure the success of the product.

Though a waterfall approach could have been used in this project, I believe that our product would not have been nearly as successful had that been the case. There are benefits and downfalls to each approach. In the case of Agile, Agile is adaptable, encourages teamwork, follows flexible timelines and is good for more complex projects. Agile may not be the best choice however for projects with more limited budgets or limited timeframes. Waterfall is good for projects that are very clearly defined or projects that operate on strict budgets or are more limited in scope. In this case, as our project was somewhat ambiguous to start, it shifted over time, and it also spanned over five weeks, Agile was the better choice. An Agile style allowed us to follow practices that could support the projects progression and change over the duration of the Sprint. Following a Scum-agile approach, our project came to completion even with the changes noted. In the end, our team handled this project beautifully. Thank you to every member for your hard work and collaboration.

**References**

*Better way of counting unique item*. (2015, January 22). Stack Overflow. https://stackoverflow.com/questions/28100712/better-way-of-counting-unique-item