CS 250 Final Sprint Review and Retrospective Tim Sudik 4/16/21

As your Scrum master I would like to congratulate all of you on a job well done. The SNHU Travel project was completed on time, on budget, and fully functional despite the unexpected change in direction the project took. Everyone took their roles and responsibilities very seriously. We were able to communicate clearly and work together effectively to complete the project.

Our product owner met with the executives at SNHU Travel and gathered details for their request for a travel booking website that offers deals on niche vacation packages. In collaboration with the Scrum team, user stories were created. The product owner and the executives at SNHU Travel also held a user focus group to gain insight into how to make the travel booking website appeal to its users. More user stories were created from the results of the focus group.

As the Scrum master, I organized the daily Scrum meetings and the sprint planning. I also groomed the product backlog to ensure the highest priority user stories were completed first. My main focus was to make sure the team had access to every resource they needed to complete the project.

The developers and testers successfully worked together with each other. The tester’s paid close attention to why the developer created the code they did. This was done so that the tester has a solid understanding of the code and can test it thoroughly. The developers and testers have been able to communicate in a very efficient way, always keeping the project progressing forward.

The Scrum-agile approach to the SDLC helped each of the user stories come to completion by approaching the tasks as a team rather than individually. The user stories were prioritized and then assigned during the daily Scrum meetings. The agile approach work much better than the traditional waterfall method in the way that in agile, most of the team’s resources can be shifted to meet demand or to the highest priority at the moment to keep the project momentum moving forward. In a traditional waterfall method tasks are assigned individually opening the possibilities for project delays. Agile is a way to prevent delays. For example, in the Travel SNHU project, the top 5 destinations list was the highest priority story. That user story was completed first. It also helped tremendously when the focus of the destinations offered shifted to a more detox/wellness format. The results of the top 5 destinations just needed to be changed but the code to display the results could remain the same. When the change was decided, this user story became the highest priority. It was completed and the team moved onto the next highest priority story. By having such a minor change it didn’t interfere with the project’s progress that much but that is why the agile method is used, to adapt to changes and keep operations running smoothly.

The Scrum/agile approach is all about adapting to change. The product owner was contacted by Travel SNHU about a change in the vacation offerings. They wanted to focus on detox/wellness destinations. The product owner contacted the Scrum master who then informed the entire team of the changes. Since the top 5 destinations list was the highest priority story, this change took on the highest priority. In an email, the developer addressed the changes to the product owner and the tester. It was requested that the tester provide feedback whether the top 5 destinations list was functional or not. If the list worked, the results just needed to be updated. If the list were not functional, then the whole story would need to be redone. It was requested that the user story be created during the next daily Scrum meeting so that the story be completed immediately. Under the agile methodology, communication is key. Face to face communication is always the preferred way. Face to face communication enable clarity. It allows body language to be read and helps improve understanding. Face to face communication is not always possible, so in the case of the Travel SNHU project, emails were utilized. The emails were clear and very descriptive in what processes and materials were needed to complete the new changes. The emails are provided below. The entire team was involved in the emails to promote open communication

To: jstevens@agile.net, swilliams@agile.net

From: tsudik@agile.net

Cc: tnguyen@agile.net, eolson@agile.net

Subject: Focus changes in the SNHU Travel website

John and Stacy,

I have just been informed of the shift in focus of the Travel SNHU website. I am requesting that we hold an all-hands Scrum meeting to discuss these changes and create a user story. I just want to be completely sure of what is desired before I make any changes. My question for Stacy is did the Top 5 destinations link function correctly? Please address this in our Scrum meeting. As long as that link worked correctly, this change should not take very long to implement at all; however, I need all details concerning the shift in focus. This change seems minor but holds a very high priority; therefore we need to adjust the product backlog, which should be done prior to the Scrum meeting. Thank you for everyone’s cooperation in implementing these changes.

Tim Sudik.

To: jstevens@agile.net, swilliams@agile.net

From: tsudik@agile.net

Cc: tnguyen@agile.net, eolson@agile.net

Subject: Focus changes in the SNHU Travel website

John and Stacy,

I have been reviewing all of the changes I need to implement to comply with the shift in focus of the Travel SNHU website. Stacy please let me know if all the code that has been created is fully functional. If so, all I need to do is change a few categories, like the destination profile would need to be completely redone and in terms of the restaurant search I implemented, I would just attach menus from each respective resort. John, let me know how these changes sound to you. As soon as I get approval, I will create a user story and finish implementing the changes to coordinate with the shift in vacation offerings. This story will become my highest priority. Thank you for everyone’s cooperation in implementing these changes.

Tim Sudik.

There were three organizational tools that really helped with the completion of this project, daily Scrum meetings, white boards, and the use of Azure boards. The white board was utilized and updated during the Scrum meetings. This visual tool assisted in organizing the daily tasks. The Azure boards are an updatable online whiteboard. With the use of an online whiteboard, it really helped improve efficiency. Every member on the team and the executives at Travel SNHU could view the Azure board and see the project’s overall progress. It promoted open communication amongst the team by providing information such as delays and problems that required assistance. The online whiteboards are an extremely helpful tool.

The Scrum/agile approach was very effective in completion of this project. I feel that the Scrum/agile approach was the best choice for this project because it promotes a distribution of work assigned compared to a sequential work assignment associated with a traditional waterfall approach. The pros that the Scrum/agile method provided for this project are an emphasis on communication, promoted adaptability to change, and the ability to shift resources. All three of these pros occurred during the announcement and implementation of the changes made to the project. While there were not that many bumps in the road with this project, it did show that some of the cons with this project that came up were that if sprints were not panned correctly progress can be hindered and if that progress is slowed, the next sprint could be quite hectic trying to get the project up to speed. The Scrum/agile approach was the correct choice in completing this project.