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Sprint Review and Retrospective

Every member in each role of the Scum-agile Team worked their best to contribute to the success of the SNHU Travel project. It was because of the team’s hard work that the Sprint was wildly successful and beneficial to us and the client.

As Scrum Master, I was in charge of the Sprint Planning, Daily Scrums, and Backlog Refinement events. These events allowed us to plan steps, mark progress, learn from mistakes, and stay on task. I made sure to have full collaboration with the team and the Product Owner to keep the project running smoothly. I was able to work closely with the Product Owner especially when facilitating the Backlog Refinement. This was done throughout the Sprint which helped ensure that great quality was getting completely and ready for the client in a timely manner.

The Product Owner did well with collaboration and communication as well. They made sure there was an open line of communication between them and the users and stakeholders of the project. It was with this engagement that allowed the Product Owner to obtain the user stories and create the Product Backlog. They also did well analyzing the user stories and categorizing them by size and priority. The user stories were then broken down into smaller components in order to detail what requirements would need to be met in order to consider the stories completed.

The developers worked hard to complete the user stories in a timely and effective manner. With the help of the completion requirements, they were able to identify the best way to code the program and ensure the client will be receiving a product they are happy with. Constant communication with the Product Owner and testers also allowed the developers to have clear understanding and be on the same page with the team, client, and users.

The testers also utilized the Product Backlog created by the Product Owner to ensure that the requirements were being met and that user stories were being completed correctly. They were able to access resources as well to complete their verification process.

The Scrum-agile approach to the SDLC helped each of the user stories come to completion in many ways. The user stories were helpful to the Scrum Team as it allowed planning for the Product Backlog for the Sprint. With the acceptance criteria detailed and size of the stories notated, the team can confidently know what to work on and what goal to meet. The interviews and user meetings allowed the clients and users explain what they would like to see in the final product. They could voice their opinions on what works and what doesn’t. With the interviews, we were able to create more detailed user stories that directly tackles the users’ needs.

The elements of the user stories that were most helpful in developing the initial test cases were the detailed components of what the user will be doing and what is expected to be the outcome of that. Each user story came with detailed acceptance criteria that helped us to create our test cases.

The Scrum-agile approach supports the project greatly when there is disruption or change of direction. The flexibility of Scrum allows changes to be smooth. For example, the agile methodology allows developers to be more flexible in their approach because they set themselves up to be able to change their code and formatting without having to redo the whole project. With the constant testing and receiving feedback from the client, the developers can have a smooth process for changing anything.

There were a couple of times that the team needed to be communicative in order to move forward or complete tasks. For example, there was a time when the user stories had changed due to the client’s request. We did need further clarification from the Product Owner and testers in order to ensure that the project was developed to the client’s standards.

Please see the email below as a sample of the communication mentioned:

To: Product Owner and/or Tester

Subject: Information Needed

Dear Product Owner/Tester,

I am reaching out to you today to request for further information to be gathered in light of the client’s new project requirements. Please see the following questions below so we can better develop the project.

1. What are the different activity options for the user to choose from?
2. Are the wellness and detox vacations the only packages they would like to offer, or is this a specialty package they offer?

Please let me know the answers to these questions so we may make the necessary adaptations as soon as possible!

Thank you!

Another example of a communication practice from this Sprint that helped my team complete their work was the information radiator. With the resources needed and the emails saved to a specific spot, it was easier to go back and look at the information so we could decide exactly what is needed and how to proceed when we have questions. One of the main assignments where we had to use this was when creating the user stories. The Product Owner was consistently going back to see what the client and focus group had said so they could be sure all bullet points were completed.

Agile project-management tools helped coordinate and increased efficiency because they laid out what was needed, done, and provided communication on the project. Having the tools, especially with something like the Azure Boards that connects to your Microsoft, makes the information easy access. Knowing you can quickly access the information from anywhere and in full establishes a sense of confidence and increases efficiency.

The Scrum-agile approach for the SNHU Travel project was a huge success and was very effective. There were many pros for using this approach. When the client changed their requirements for the project, it was quick and easy for the team to adjust and make the proper changes. And while a con can be how dependent the Scrum-agile approach is on communication, a pro is how the approach forces that communication with our daily Scrum meetings and provides many resources for information and communication. I believe that the Scrum-agile approach was the best approach for this project, especially because the team needed to readjust and complete this project in a timely manner. Scrum allowed us to do just that.