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Sprint Review and Retrospective

Each role played a very important part in the success of the SNHU Travel project. The Product owner defined the nature of the project for us. They also made sure to prioritize the user stories. They met with the clients to learn the requirements about the project, and made sure nothing was too vague.

The scrum master facilitates the entire process. They mediate the daily scrum meetings, sprint planning, and the reviews. They also encourage teamwork within the agile methodology. If any team member has an issue, the scrum master would document that and try to fix it, whether it is tech related or not. For example, many of the team members were complaining that they needed new window blinds because the morning sun would show directly into the office. The scrum master had the blinds replaced the next day.

The developers are the ones that implement the user stories. Every day during the scrum meeting, they would list off what they accomplished the day before and what they planned to accomplish today. They would work together to solve any issues another member was having. At one point one member was having issues getting a specific feature to work, and another developer that had experience with it began working with their colleague to fix the problem.

The scrum-agile approach definitely helped us complete the user stories. Since we divided the project into several different sprints, we could receive feedback from the clients much earlier than using waterfall. This way we lost very little time when we had to go back and make adjustments. For example, we set up a way to filter the results that were searched for. A client asked us to add a filter that would display results based on their profile history. It was a simple fix since this particular sprint’s focus was on filtering search results. The scrum-agile approach also emphasizes constant communication. This accelerates problem solving and encourages collaborations so all team members are working towards the same goal.

If the project was interrupted or changed direction, using the scrum-agile approach helped to keep this from being a major problem. The product backlog was reviewed on a regular basis to prioritize new requirements from the clients. Every team member is able to collaborate on adjusting what they were working on to make sure the most important user stories were put at the front of the line. One of the agile principles is welcoming change and client feedback. All team members understood that the needs of the clients could change at any moment. Thanks to agile, sudden change can be dealt with quickly and in a timely fashion. At one point, one of the clients said that the color scheme on the homepage of the travel site gave him headaches. We were able to quickly adjust that to a level that was comfortable for everyone.

As stated previously, agile methodology strongly encourages communication. Therefore, clear communication is a priority. All team members were immediately informed about updates to the client needs, additional goals that were created, and backlog changes. This is all crucial to make sure all members understand what needs to be done. Thankfully, our product owner made sure that any updates she received from the clients were very clear and not vague.

Another aspect that helped me to communicate clearly is to listen properly. At meetings, I listened actively to the thoughts and concerns of other team members. I made sure that their ideas were valued so that every member felt confident in voicing their opinions and views.

Several organizational tools helped my team to be successful. The first thing we did was set up a Jira account. This tool allowed everyone to view the progress of the project. This way clients could adjust their requests based on the progress being made. We also made sure to have daily standup meetings. This way, all team members could work together to solve any problems that may be occurring. They could also listen to the ideas of their peers and comment or make suggestions on the best way to implement these ideas. There is also the sprint review. This will show the clients the completed user stories so we could receive feedback and make adjustments if necessary. This also allows the team to reflect on their work so adjustments can be made to how the next sprint could be completed in a more efficient and cost-effective manner.

To assess the effectiveness of the scrum-agile approach, there are many pros and cons to take into account. This approach allows for flexibility towards any changes made to the project either from technical difficulties or client needs. It allows for constant feedback from the clients. Collaboration and communication are greatly emphasized. It also lets developers find bug and other issues in a timely manner so it doesn’t damage the completion deadline.

Possible issues to this approach may be that it does require active participation from all team members. The approach is only as strong as the weakest link. Also, if a client is more accustomed to the waterfall approach, they may not properly appreciate the agile approach. The fast paced approach of agile could be off-putting to those used to a much slower methodology.

Due to the nature of this project, the agile approach is definitely the preferred methodology. The way it allows for constant collaboration and communication and openness to change allowed the team to be highly efficient in completing this task. With a project of this scope, the team was able to adapt quickly to any changes or issues that arose. This level of adaptation was instrumental in the completion of this project.