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Professor Martinez

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Final Project: Sprint Review and Retrospective

For the past few weeks, this team has excelled at putting together a deliverable for the SNHU Travel agency. Their original goal was to have a function tool to draw in additional customers to their platform. They wanted to stay relevant with their great deals and have something to provide to end users for the upcoming vacation season.

Each role of this team had a specific purpose to be carried out. Our product owner, Christy, led the initial sprint progression by gathering all necessary information from the client. Christy was able to get a picture for what was required of the team and pass the information along to myself, Scrum Master. Afterwards, Christy was able to gain additional information from actual customers, increasing our knowledge of what exactly should go into the product that SNHU Travel was looking for. Christy was able to find out that personal lists and user preferences were a big deal to them and proceeded to convey this again to the team.

From here, our development team took the reins. The development team had quite a bit on their plate to implement based on what was gathered from Christy. Nicole, one of the developers, needed some specifics in order to deliver an acceptable product. Brian, the tester, played a large role in conjunction with Nicole in order to ensure these deliverables were functioning. Brain was responsible for testing each work that Nicole handed over and put it through rigorous analysis.

With this team’s Scrum-agile approach, user stories make perfect sense and fit into our equation for success quite nicely. These stories required us to work on the fly for what was needed and even develop things that may not be standards. To ensure these stories were seen to completion, our team’s agenda was critical. The initial introduction into our product backlog and afterwards sprint planning and estimation were the kickoff for these stories. We needed to introduce specific methods for estimation that included practices such as using estimation units. With our continued daily stand-ups, the entire team was on the same page and in good communications.

During this project, we saw a complete change in direction during one of our sprints. We can expect these kinds of things to happen and lucky for us, our agile approach keeps us well prepared. We initially were informed by Christy that a new industry report showed an increase in popularity for detox and wellness retreats. This required us to adapt to the new requirements and also adjust our estimations. The product backlog needed to be altered and we had to plan for a change in sprint direction. Luckily, Nicole was able to pivot and not entirely scrap the work she had been preparing. Additionally, Brain was required to alter some of his test cases as well and prepare for the new requirements. Throughout this process, our daily standups ensured that proper communication was happening between all parts of our team to ease tensions as we changed course.

During the beginning of this project, we had set guidelines for the entire team to adhere to. In those were our communication guidelines that stated we would hold daily meetings at 8AM and we all needed to participate in them. Additionally, all teammates needed to show professionalism and proper etiquette when speaking with one another. Brian did an excellent job with this during some communication to Christy over some of the user stories implementations. Brain sent out an email stating for clarification on some stories and was specific with his queries.

Throughout this project we have utilized a few tools that have certainly contributed to our success that we should definitely implement in future projects. Using our Jira suite, we were able to track all sprint progress in a central location with contributions from users being effortless. Clear communications between teammates were achieved by utilizing Outlook email for import threads that needed to be tracked. For our day-to-day communication, Microsoft Teams severed to be best, allowing us to quickly get ahold of one another. These allowed us to collaborate and be transparent with one another, contributing to this team's overall success.

To wrap up, we have seen success from every role throughout this project and have clearly seen that an agile approach worked in our favor. We started with a few unknowns and even experienced a change in course, which a traditional waterfall approach would have fallen apart trying to handle. Our approach saw seamless feedback between the various roles, communicating and collaborating with one another to refine and complete our product backlog. We were able to have roles that focused on speaking with the customer and convey this through our procedures to reach an end product. However, we did have to work with creating an estimation process and creating that foundation. This made it difficult to meet the SNHU Travel’s team deadline, especially since we also took on a change of course for their project as well.