Module 7 Final Project: Sprint Review and Retrospective

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The SNHU Travel project was a complex endeavor that required the concerted efforts of a dedicated Scrum-Agile team. As the Scrum Master, I had the privilege of guiding the team through various stages of development, ensuring that we adhered to Agile principles and practices. This Sprint Review and Retrospective will highlight how our team roles, iterative approach, and Agile methodology contributed to completing user stories, handling interruptions effectively, and maintaining robust communication and organization. By reflecting on our experiences and evaluating the tools and processes we used, we aim to identify the strengths and areas for improvement that will inform future projects.

## Applying Roles

In the SNHU Travel project, each role on the Scrum-Agile team played a crucial part in contributing to the project’s success. As the Scrum Master, I facilitated daily stand-ups and promptly addressed any impediments faced by the team. For instance, when our Developer encountered issues integrating the payment gateway, I arranged a focused session with our technical lead to resolve the problem quickly. The Product Owner provided clear priorities and regularly refined the backlog based on stakeholder feedback, ensuring we aligned with user needs. For example, during sprint planning, the Product Owner adjusted the priority of user stories to incorporate new user feedback about preferred travel destinations, which kept the project relevant and user-centric.

## Completing User Stories

The Scrum-Agile approach was instrumental in bringing user stories to completion. The iterative nature of sprints allowed us to deliver incremental value and adjust based on feedback. For instance, one of our user stories was to create a feature that allowed users to filter vacation packages by price. We initially developed and tested this user story in a sprint, and after receiving feedback during the sprint review, we added enhancements, such as a more intuitive slider for price selection in the next sprint. This iterative feedback loop ensured that we not only completed user stories but also effectively refined them to meet user expectations.

## Handling Interruptions

The flexibility of the Scrum-Agile approach was particularly valuable when our project direction changed. Midway through the project, we received a request to integrate a new API for fetching the latest travel deals, which was not part of the original plan. By leveraging the Scrum framework, we quickly reassessed and re-prioritized our backlog in the next sprint planning session. The team adjusted their focus, and despite this interruption, we successfully integrated the new API without significant delays to our overall timeline. This adaptability allowed us to handle changes smoothly and continue delivering value.

## Communication

Effective communication was vital for our team’s collaboration. One example was the use of daily stand-up meetings, where each team member shared their progress, plans, and impediments. This regular update ensured everyone agreed and allowed us to address issues swiftly. Additionally, I used a shared communication platform to document decisions and actions, which were accessible to all team members. For instance, when we decided to shift focus to the new API integration, I documented the discussion and next steps in a shared document, ensuring transparency and keeping everyone informed. This practice encouraged collaboration and kept the team aligned.

## Organizational Tools

Organizational tools and Scrum-Agile principles played a significant role in our success. We used JIRA to manage our backlog and track progress, which provided a clear view of the tasks and their statuses. This tool was particularly effective during sprint planning and reviews, allowing us to visualize our progress and identify any bottlenecks. Scrum events like sprint reviews and retrospectives were crucial in evaluating our work and making necessary adjustments. During retrospectives, we engaged in discussions about what went well and what could be improved, which allowed us to gain actionable insights. For example, after identifying that our initial estimation practices needed refinement, we adopted planning poker, which improved our estimation accuracy in subsequent sprints.

## Evaluating Agile Process

The Scrum-Agile approach presented several pros and cons during the SNHU Travel project. On the positive side, it provided flexibility to adapt to changes, fostered continuous feedback, and encouraged team collaboration. However, the approach also had challenges, such as the learning curve for team members new to Agile and the initial difficulty in accurate estimation. Overall, the Scrum-Agile approach was the best fit for the SNHU Travel project. Its flexibility allowed us to respond to changing requirements effectively, and the iterative process ensured we continually delivered value to stakeholders. The collaborative environment it fostered also enhanced team morale and productivity, ultimately contributing to the project’s success.