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CS250  
Roles on a Scrum-agile Team:  
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Introduction:

The Scrum-agile approach has been extensively adopted by our team to develop and improve the digital solutions for SNHU Travel. This report summarizes the roles in our Scrum team, the phases of the SDLC we followed, and offers reflections on the approach's efficacy.

1. Roles on a Scrum-agile Team and their Contribution:

a. Product Owner (PO)

- Role & Importance: The PO represents the business or user community and ensures the team delivers value. They prioritize product backlog items based on business needs and clarify requirements for the team.

- Contribution: The PO ensured clarity on the most valuable features for SNHU Travel. For instance, when the team was uncertain about a booking feature's specifics, the PO provided clarity, ensuring alignment with SNHU Travel's expectations.

b. Scrum Master

- Role & Importance: The Scrum Master ensures the team adheres to Scrum practices. They act as a servant-leader, removing impediments and facilitating team events.

- Contribution: By facilitating daily stand-ups and removing blockers, such as technical impediments, the Scrum Master ensured our sprints were on track.

c. Development Team

- Role & Importance: This cross-functional group is responsible for delivering increments of the product at each sprint's end.

- Contribution: Through effective collaboration, the team developed crucial features like a flight search algorithm, pairing experienced members with novices for optimal knowledge transfer.

2. Scrum-agile Approach to the SDLC:

a. Requirements/Discovery

- Gathered requirements just-in-time, allowing for timely feedback and relevance.

b. Design

- Adopted an iterative design approach that evolved based on sprint feedback.

c. Implementation/Development

- Worked in sprints to develop subsets of the product backlog.

d. Testing

- Continuous testing throughout each sprint ensured quality.

e. Deployment

- Advocated for smaller, frequent releases for prompt market feedback.

f. Review and Feedback

- Post-sprint reviews with stakeholders ensured product alignment.

- Reflective Example: An initially vague user story about trip reviews was refined post feedback, resulting in a more user-centric feature in the subsequent sprint.

3. Handling Changes with Scrum:

Scrum's flexibility meant we could readily pivot. For instance, a mid-sprint request from SNHU Travel for a currency converter was seamlessly integrated into our backlog and executed in the following sprint.

4. Communication in Scrum:

Daily Stand-ups were crucial communication touchpoints. For example, challenges with third-party API integration were collaboratively resolved when discussed during these meetings.

5. Tools & Principles:

We leveraged tools like JIRA for backlog management and Slack for team communication. Regular Scrum events further ensured our project's continuous improvement.

6. Efficacy of the Scrum-agile Approach:

- Pros:

- Adaptability to changes

- Continuous feedback loop

- Early delivery of valuable features

- Cons:

- Requires discipline

- Can be resource-intensive

-Verdict: Given SNHU Travel's dynamic needs, the Scrum-agile approach was ideal, permitting regular adjustments based on feedback.

7. Comparing Agile with Traditional Methods:

Waterfall, a more linear approach, gathers all requirements before proceeding, whereas Agile is iterative. A challenge with a feature in Agile can be identified and adjusted quickly, while in Waterfall, it might only be recognized later, leading to costly rework.

Considering factors like scope stability, project size, and the need for feedback, our experience suggests that Agile offers more flexibility and collaboration, especially for evolving projects. In contrast, Waterfall might suit projects with a clearly defined, unchanging scope.