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Final Project

1. When it came to the SNHU Travel Project, the team had a framework and goal that allowed the project to succeed. First, we had the product owner of the team lead conversations and communication with the client. The product owner was able to ask the client for their specific goals for the project. By asking the right questions, the product owner was able to come back to the team with accurate goals and tasks for us to accomplish. The product owner was also responsible for gathering data outside of their meeting with the client. They met with a focus group to gather more data for the team and update the project’s vision. The Scrum Master aided the product owner in the planning and meeting of the project. They were able to build a team for the project and aid the team during the sprint with organization and facilitating conversations/standups. Next, we have the development team. The Development team is crucial in the process as they are the team that creates the actual product. In this case, the development team was tasked with creating the update travel website for the client. Beyond developing the product, the team development team is also responsible for working with the product owner to manage the product backlog and updating priorities for the project. Their voice and progress during a sprint was also crucial in the success of the project. When the client decided that they wanted to change their priorities during the sprint, the development team had to shift their workload to meet the deadline but also create a working product. Lastly, the tester was needed for the continuous loop of feedback that a sprint requires. The tester advises the team on how the product works and what could be different. The tester was important towards meeting the deadline and giving a product that actually met the projects vision.
2. The Scrum-agile approach helped the user stories come to fruition because of the structure that it requires. When creating user stories, they all have to meet the framework of agile user stories. With each user story, we had to describe the value of the story to the project. From the focus group we learned that the a top five destination list would be useful for those navigating the site. We created a user story for this and created a value statement that allowed us to set a priority for this story. Additionally, we had to set acceptance criteria for each story. By using the scrum-agile approach for user stories, we were able to create ideas for the project and set priorities for them in a way that was easy to replicate and follow.
3. One large reason behind the success of the Scrum-agile approach is that it is meant to allow changes in direction as the project moves along. In regard to the SNHU Travel project, we were able to change direction because the project allowed for changes in priority and constant communication. When the client wanted to change direction for their project, we saw how the scrum-agile approach took place to adapt to these changes. In the Scrum-agile approach, the team meets daily for a meeting to discuss their progress and any challenges/questions they may have. Constant communication within the team allows them to be on the same page and aligned on their goals. Daily meetings also allow for changes to be discussed in a timely matter, as well as, how the changes will be handled. The scrum master can assist with organizing changes in workload but also in facilitating communication within different roles. The product owner also communicates the changes and the clients goals effectively to set a clear direction for the project moving forward. In the case of the SNHU Travel Project, the product owner communicated the change that the client made in regard to their priorities. While the development team was concerned that all of their work was to be scrapped, the product owner communicated that the work was still needed for the project, however, there would be a change in the final priority for the project. The scrum master facilitating the conversation by asking useful questions that would help clarify where the project stands. In the Scrum-agile approach, there is room for change in direction because the framework allows for consistent communication. Beyond just communication, there is the ability to update the priority of specific tasks and the workload of the team. Unlike the waterfall method, Scrum-agile can measure progress as the project moves along instead of at the end.
4. When it came to communicating with my team, we were able to communicate our questions and also set clear guidelines on how to attain our needs as a team. For example, when writing to the team as a developer, I had to asked questions about the future of the project and their expectations for any future changes. As the developer, it is important to understand what to set as priorities for the tasks that are being worked. Discussing thes expectations with the product owner is crucial in meeting deadlines and creating a successful product. It also allowed for communication and transparency between the development team and the product owner, allowing the team to come together to complete the task. Additionally, when writing as the tester to the team, the rest of the teeam was asked for information that would have made test cases easier to develop. Asking the team for this information was crucial in understanding the needs of the client and the teams process. Without communicating one’s needs and questions, the project could have been completed without successfully meeting the clients needs/the projects goal.
5. One of the most effective and crucial organizational tools that the scrum-agile approach brings is the daily standup. With each meeting, the team is allowed and expected to communicate their progress and their challenges. By having constant communication, it allows the team to remain on the same page and to discuss any challenges/questions. During the SNHU Travel project, the team was informed about changes in direction, the client’s desires and priorities. Without the daily standup, the information may have been communicated in writing or at later dates, which could have delayed the project or it could have been miscommunicated. Without constant communication, there could have more opportunities for failure. In addition to daily standups, having a product backlog for the product owner and development is crucial in communicating priorities. Having a product backlog allows the team to plan their work and update priorities as the goals/project changes. Instead of communicating changes in an email or only communicating the changes verbally, the product backlog allows for a place to reference goals and priorities. Lasty, user stories were effective in communicating the vision of each task and the reason for their priority ranking. User stories allowed anyone who read them, to understand the goal of the story and it’s acceptance criteria. It was a simple, structured tool.
6. When it came to the Scrum-agile approach for the SNHU travel project, I felt that it was effective and productive in terms of meeting the projects goal. With the Scrum-agile approach, the team was able to effectively communicate in a timely matter that allowed for the team stay on the same page. Tools like the daily standup and product backlog allowed for goal setting and questions. The flexibility of Scrum allowed the project to be a success because it allowed for changes that the client requested as the sprint was in progress. I did not feel that there were any cons that the team faced when using the Scrum-agile approach.