CS-250 Final Project: Scrum Review

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Sprint Review and Retrospective

After having taken on the various roles on a Scrum Team, I will once again take on the role of Scrum Master to lead a Sprint Review and Retrospective. The Sprint Review involves the entire Scrum Team and the Users/Stakeholders. “The purpose of the Sprint Review is to inspect the outcome of the Sprint and determine future adaptations” (Schwaber, 2020). The Retrospective is for the Scrum Team itself. “The purpose of the Sprint Retrospective is to plan ways to increase quality and effectiveness” (Schwaber, 2020). It is a chance for the team to look at how they worked as a team. It should be a time of reflection where the team celebrates their victories and discuss challenges they have. Both should be used to set the team up for success during the next Sprint.

# Sprint Review

The current Sprint is wrapping up and our developers have been working hard on the SNHU Travel Project. There is one deliverable for this Sprint. We have developed the slide show for travel destinations. At the beginning of the Sprint this was meant to be a Top 5 Destinations show, however halfway through the Sprint this changed to destinations involving Detox/Wellness. I want to thank our developers and testers as this change was accomplished with minimal difficulty. This would not have been possible without an agile approach to this project. It is important to note that the template used for the slide show can be reused for other types of destinations lists. It can also, be used in multiple locations on the travel site.

There are no other deliverables for the current Sprint, but our Product Owner and testers have been working together to prepare for the next parts of the project. We are prepared to pull multiple user stories form the Product Backlog and all these stories have testing criteria which will make it easier for the developers to deliver on these. The Product Owner has been working with the stakeholders to prioritize these user stories. The Sprint Review is a great time to look at these priorities and I, the Scrum Master can help make these adjustments as needed. Note that with Scrum we can make these adjustments and pull new ideas into development much easier than traditional project methods.

Now that we have a functional list of destinations, we can begin on creating the destination booking system where users can look at more information regarding vacations they find on the site as well as reserving those vacations. This is the top priority for our team as it is the most important thing for the travel site to start creating revenue. This is a large portion of the program being developed and is an Epic that may take multiple Sprints to develop. We are prepared to begin development on this in the next Sprints which will start this next Monday.

# Retrospective

As we wrap up Sprint it is important for us to look at our successes together. Then we need to evaluate what worked well and where we can improve. We had a strong start to the SNHU Travel Project, and it is important to note that we were able to deliver the top thing they wanted out of this project. The Detox/Wellness destination slide show would not have been my top priority for this project, but it was the most important thing for the stakeholders and that is why it was the first thing we did. I want to personally thank our developers and testers for being adaptable when this deliverable changed from the Top 5 Destinations page to the Detox/Wellness slideshow. This change was much easier for our team to handle because we have an agile mindset.

## Communication

The best way to evaluate our team is to look at how we communicate with each other. Between the developers, testers, and myself, the best tool we have for communicating is during our Daily Standups. This a great opportunity for us to see what each of us is working on and getting help from each other. We have done a good job at making this meeting efficient, we need to continue to use this time affectively as we move to the next Sprint. Remember that if you need help with anything all you need to do is ask.

Even though we try to work in the same location it is not always possible to meet face to face. This is where emailing each other has come in handy. This is preferable to having extensive documentation for the project as it cuts down on confusion. We can find any clarity we need for any problems we come across. Keep using resources like this so that we can all be on the same page.

Another form of communication that we use is our Scrum Board. This is nice to have one place we can find our progress toward user stories currently in development. These stories are pulled from the Product Backlog that the Product Owner and I keep up to date. We work hard to make sure that this is organized, and I would recommend we keep our Scrum Board organized as well. If we need, we can look at getting an information radiator like Azure Boards or Jira. This is an opportunity for us to be more efficient at developing this program.

## Scrum Principles

The next thing we want to discuss is the principles of Scrum. We want to look at the values laid out by the Agile Manifesto (Beck et al., 2022):

Individuals and interactions over processes and tools

Working software over comprehensive documentation

Customer collaboration over contract negotiation

Responding to change over following a plan

Let us see how we have applied each of these in turn.

We discussed some things pertaining to individuals and interactions while talking about communication. It is better that we discuss priorities and challenges with each other to better work as a team. This also, allows us to be more adaptable and get the clients what they want especially as their needs change. We have started this following Scrum closely to how it is laid out, utilizing the roles and Scrum events to good effect. This seems to be working and does not need to change for the Travel project. If we run into problems with this, we can adapt the way we do Scrum as needed.

I am proud of the fact that in our first Sprint we were able to deliver on the top priority given by the client. This deliverable passed the tests enough for us to consider it as “Done”. The user stories ready to be pulled into development also have testing criteria and this will help us to create working software. The Product Owner has been doing a great job meeting with he clients and working with them. With his level of communication between the client and our team we can give them a program that more closely is in line with what they need. During this Sprint we did a great job responding to change. This is much easier to deal with when we have an agile mind set.

## Effectiveness of Scrum

Overall using Scrum for the SNHU Travel Project has helped us deliver a better program. We have prioritized what the travel company needs most, and it shows in their satisfaction with the project. Changing to Scrum has been challenging especially when we had to change course on work we had already completed. This change did get SNHU Travel something that is going to be better for their business. Working in a Scrum Team can be difficult but as we learn to work as a team, we will find creative solutions that will make for better software. Scrum has made this project better.

References

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