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Final Project

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**Sprint Review and Retrospective: SNHU Travel Project**

As the Scrum Master for the SNHU Travel project, I facilitated and observed the collaborative efforts of our Scrum-Agile team from the project kickoff to the final sprint. This Sprint Review and Retrospective summarizes our work, highlights key contributions from team members, and assesses how the Scrum methodology impacted our project delivery.

**Applying Roles**

Every member of our team played a key role in getting the project across the finish line. Our Product Owner really set the tone from the start, helping us shape the product backlog and making sure we were always aligned with what stakeholders wanted. I remember our first planning session, she took what felt like a giant travel booking idea and broke it down into clear, concise user stories. That made planning so much easier.

As for me, in my role as Scrum Master, I tried to keep the wheels turning smoothly. Whether it was leading our meetings or stepping in to handle issues, my goal was always to make sure the team had what they needed to succeed. The developers were all in as they collaborated closely, shared responsibilities, and tackled challenges as a unit. The team was able to take user stories and test cases and make a final application that satisfied the needs of users.

**Completing User Stories**

Scrum really helped us stay focused and finish our user stories efficiently. Breaking the project into sprints gave us clear goals and timeboxes, which helped keep us on track. Take the story about helping users search for destinations by budget and preferences. It sounded simple, but once we got into it, the data filtering proved to be trickier than expected. With this being a bigger undertaking than expected the team had to refocus to meet the deadline. Daily standups were key, they helped us catch roadblocks early, and by talking things out, we could pivot fast. By the time we hit the final sprint, every priority story was done and able to be tested.

**Handling Interruptions**

Midway through the project, we hit a bit of a curveball. Originally, we were just focusing on flight and hotel bookings, but stakeholders asked us to pivot and focus more on the new trend of the “detox and wellness” space. Instead of letting it throw us off, we used Scrum to our advantage. We didn’t try to cram the new feature into the current sprint. Instead, we added it to the backlog, re-prioritized it, and picked it up in the next sprint planning session. That way, we kept our flow going without letting one change derail everything. This kind of flexibility is one of the things I appreciate most about Scrum. It gave us the structure to stay on track but enough wiggle room to handle new requests.

**Communication**

Good communication kept everything running. Daily stand-ups were used to discuss the progress of the day prior and how things were going to progress into the current day. This encouraged team members to be ready to help each other out and act as a team while also retaining their

independence when working on other tasks. Prior to the start there was a negotiation period to discuss which tasks were going to take up more time and effort during the sprint. For this we decided to use the planning poker method. Using this method requires cards that are drawn from least to greatest after numbers have been negotiated with their proper significance levels. Once properly negotiated and each task was estimated properly, the team had a much easier time dissecting how to progress through the project during the life cycle of the sprint.

**Organizational Tools**

Jira was our main tool for managing the backlog, sprints, and overall progress. Using the Scrum board helped us see exactly where everything stood, what was in progress, what was done, and what was up next. Every sprint started with a planning meeting where we estimated tasks using story points and built our sprint backlog. Standups were short and sweet, keeping us aligned. The retrospectives were helpful.

**Evaluating Agile Process**

Scrum-Agile worked well for the SNHU Travel project, but it wasn’t without its bumps. On the plus side, we had regular feedback, flexibility to adjust, and a solid rhythm. We got a working product out quickly, and stakeholders were able to see real progress every couple of weeks. With that said, we had to overcome a few challenges. Early on, we struggled with estimating how long things would take, and mid-sprint changes occasionally threw off our groove. But we learned from it. Our estimates got better, and we became more resilient as a team. Looking back, Scrum-Agile was definitely the right choice. It helped us stay organized, adapt quickly, and grow stronger as a team. We finished with a user-friendly travel planning tool that hit all the key requirements, and we did it together.

**Conclusion**

Reflecting on the SNHU Travel project, it’s clear how much Scrum helped guide us from idea to execution. By sticking to roles, leaning into communication, using the right tools, and learning from each sprint, we delivered a product that worked, and a team that worked even better together. The experience made me a better Scrum Master and showed just how powerful Agile can be when a team commits to the process.