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Journal: Scrum Team Communication

A Scrum Team has 4 main roles The Scrum Master, The Product Developer, The Tester, and Developer. They each play a unique role managing the product and assisting each other. On an agile team, no one person has one job title. We change hats as the products develop and clear each other out of jams; a developer can be a Tester, and a Tester can be a Developer. Openness and transparency are crucial for collaboration and successful project delivery.

One communication tool that is necessary is a “Information Radiator”. Information radiators are tools like a white board or cork board that is placed in a common space in the work area where the entire team can see it. The information radiator should be easily accessible to all team members to promote transparency. These displays could include sprint backlogs, burn-down charts, burn-up charts, task boards, and new information/updates relevant to the product that week. Using a constant visual representation of project progress, team members are more likely to stay aligned and work towards common goals.

Daily stand-up meetings are another communication tool that allows members of the group a few minutes to explain what work they accomplished yesterday, what work they will accomplish today, and what resources they need to move forward. Sometimes traditional meetings with one speaker aren’t efficient and may waste valuable time talking about irrelevant information. Daily stand-ups are concise and foster a culture of collaboration and continuous improvement within the team.

Since the Scrum Team I was part of for the SNHU Travel project was long distance, e-mail was the primary source of communication. E-mail allows the team to communicate day-to-day progress. Our team divided the work among each other, set goals and ways to collaborate, and discussed how our individual contributions can come together to form one unified project. However, e-mail was only used due to the long-distance collaboration of our team. I believe face-to-face collaboration is a much more useful tool.

Face-to-face communication promotes transparency on the Scrum Team and defines individual responsibility. Moreover, Face-to-face communication gives the team a sense of connection, and this connection ensures that the teammates will have each other’s back through any jam or conflict. An agile team is flexible and open-minded to help one another succeed in delivering the best product possible.

Product management tools such as JIRA and Azure Boards are essential to managing a project. Software tools like this help organize Scrum Teams with Sprint-Planning, current progress, future progress, and requirements. A program such as JIRA provides a centralized platform for managing tasks, tracking progress, and facilitating collaboration. For example, in JIRA, teams can create user stories, assign tasks, set priorities, and track progress in real-time. JIRA is an organizational tool to monitor the overall progress of their projects. JIRA also supports sprint-planning, backlog updates, and aid the agile team to make data-driven decisions.

Scrum events and agile development tools improve communication and promote openness and transparency. An agile team depends on one another to facilitate collaboration for product success and ensures the agile team is working toward the same goal. Scrum events, daily stand-up meetings, information radiators, and software tools are necessary to enable the team to work together for one common goal.