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**Module Six Journal**

* What communication practices (such as information radiator, Scrum events, and so on) can create openness and transparency in a Scrum Team? Why?
  + Communication Practices for Openness and Transparency:
    1. Information Radiator (Interaction Design Foundation - IxDF. (2022, January 3): Visible displays of project status, tasks, and metrics, often placed in common areas where the entire team can easily view them.
       - These radiators promote transparency by providing real-time updates on the project’s progress, potential blockers, and team performance. Everyone, from team members to stakeholders, can see the current state of the project, facilitating informed decision-making and prompt issue resolution.
    2. Scrum Events (Podżorska, G. (2023, October 12)):
       - Daily Stand-ups: Short, time-boxed meetings where team members share what they worked on the previous day, what they plan to work on today, and any blockers they face.
         * Daily stand-ups foster regular communication, ensuring that all team members are aware of each other’s progress and challenges. This openness helps quickly address issues and keep everyone aligned.
       - Sprint Planning: A collaborative session where the team plans the work for the upcoming sprint.
         * This event promotes transparency in goal-setting and expectation management. It ensures that all team members have a clear understanding of the sprint objectives and their individual responsibilities.
       - Sprint Review: A meeting where the team presents the completed work to stakeholders and gathers feedback.
         * Sprint reviews provide an opportunity for transparent communication with stakeholders, ensuring their feedback is incorporated and aligning the project with their expectations.
       - Sprint Retrospective: A reflective meeting where the team discusses what went well, what didn’t, and how processes can be improved.
         * This event encourages openness about the team’s performance and fosters a culture of continuous improvement.
* Consider an example from the SNHU Travel assignments or from the group discussions in this course that helped your team complete their work. What communication practices were particularly effective?
  + During the SNHU Travel assignments, our team (reality: just myself) leveraged several effective communication practices that significantly aided our project completion (Podżorska, G. (2023, October 12)):
    1. Daily Stand-ups: These brief, daily meetings ensured everyone was on the same page and allowed us to address any blockers quickly. For instance, when a team member faced an issue with a specific task, it was immediately brought to the team’s attention, and solutions were collaboratively discussed.
    2. Sprint Retrospectives: Regular retrospectives enabled us to identify bottlenecks in our processes and implement actionable improvements. For example, we realized that our initial task estimation was often inaccurate, so we decided to spend more time refining our backlog and improving our estimation techniques in future sprints.
  + *Side note: Since the question asked, “What… helped our team?” I tailored my answer to fit that context. Even though I was completing the assignments by myself, I still underwent these processes with myself.*
    1. *The animations where:*
       - *The Product Owner and Scrum Master gained insight into the product by interviewing the client to understand their vision for the product*
       - *The Product Owner gained feedback from prominent users.*
       - *The Product Owner met with the Scrum Team to overcome a new obstacle.*
    2. *They all helped me grasp the situation but only presented a problem, not a solution.*
* Describe how an Agile project-management tool (such as JIRA, Azure Boards, or RTC) can help coordinate and increase efficiency within the team. Be certain to consider a tool and not a Scrum event.
  + JIRA can significantly enhance our team’s coordination and efficiency because (Atlassian Community. (2024, June 7)):
    1. Task Management: JIRA will allow us to create, assign, and track tasks seamlessly. Each team member could update the status of their tasks to ensure that everyone has a clear view of their current workload and progress.
    2. Backlog Management: The tool facilitates effective backlog management, allowing us to prioritize tasks, refine user stories, and plan sprints efficiently.
    3. Reporting and Analytics: JIRA’s robust reporting features provide insights into team performance, sprint progress, and potential bottlenecks. This data-driven approach will help us make informed decisions and improve our processes continuously.
    4. Integration with Other Tools (Wrk. (2023, May 3)): JIRA’s ability to integrate with other tools, such as Confluence for documentation and Slack for communication, ensures that all project-related information is accessible and centralized.

**References**

Interaction Design Foundation - IxDF. (2022, January 3). What are Information Radiators?.

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Podżorska, G. (2023, October 12). *The five scrum events: Step-by-step guide for beginners*. Online Whiteboard. https://whiteboards.io/blog/scrum-events/

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