

TidBIT


When it comes to working on a Scrum Team, having good communication is critical. One of the pillars of Scrum is “transparency”, and how you accomplish transparency is through constant communication, both verbal and visual. Implementing transparency and good communication will lead to a better product and a reduction of the team’s stress based on improved feedback loops. A feedback loop is any system that collects, synthesizes, and responds to information in order to produce a higher-quality outcome. In a technical context, examples of feedback loops include code reviews, automated test suites, and NPS scores.

Reference

Boogaard, K. (2019, Nov 7). *How to shorten your feedback loops (and reduce your team’s stress)*. DZone. Retrieved from: <https://dzone.com/articles/how-to-shorten-your-feedback-loops-and-reduce-your>.




Required Resources

Textbook: *The Project Manager’s Guide to Mastering Agile* 
(<https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&AuthType=ip,shib&db=nlebk&AN=937009&site=ehost-live&scope=site&custid=shapiro>), Chapter 9

Chapter 9, Agile Communications and Tools, provides information about the importance of openness and transparency in an agile project and how information can be shared to flow easily and automatically. This chapter also covers the details of agile communication practices and project management tools. As you read, consider the following questions:

- What are examples of information radiators?
- What primary questions are answered in a Daily Scrum?
- What are some of the benefits of agile project management tools?

Website: *Jira - Issue and Project Tracking Software*  (<https://www.atlassian.com/software/jira>)

This reading from Atlassian provides information on Jira Software Cloud and new automation tools. It also covers Jira functionality such as creating stories and issues, assigning tasks, prioritizing work, planning sprints, and reporting. Be sure to check out the [Features](#) 

(<https://www.atlassian.com/software/jira/features>) and [Product Guide](#) (<https://www.atlassian.com/software/jira/guides>) (cc video [CS-250 2018 The NEW Jira Begins Now Modern Software Development Video](#) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KZlkeEIEhYc&feature=youtu.be>)) pages as well.

Note: There are a lot of extra headings at the top of this article. Look for the Level 1 Heading “The #1 software development tool used by agile teams” to navigate to that section and the headings underneath it.

Website: [Microsoft Azure Boards \(formerly Microsoft TFS\)](#) (<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/devops/boards/?view=azure-devops&viewFallbackFrom=vsts#pivot=index&panel=indexA>) This website provides an overview of MS Azure Boards. It describes how you can plan, track, and communicate across teams. It also includes Azure Board features such as creating and updating issues, bugs, and user stories, along with how Azure Boards can be customized to work with other agile, Scrum, and Kanban tools. Check out the “About Azure Boards” sections and any additional pages that interest you.

Reading: [Plan Your Work with Azure Boards](#) (<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/devops/boards/get-started/what-is-azure-boards?view=azure-devops&tabs=agile-process>) This article demonstrates how to use MS Azure Boards. It includes a tour of Kanban boards, backlogs, and more, and shows how agile teams can get started managing their work.



Additional Support (Optional)

Textbook: [The Project Manager's Guide to Mastering Agile](#) (<https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&AuthType=ip,shib&db=nlebk&AN=937009&site=ehost-live&custid=shapiro>), Chapter 10 This optional reading explores the VersionOne tool in more detail. Though this tool is not as commonly used, the textbook explains *why* it is helpful for agile projects. The VersionOne tool is chosen as a representative example of a complete set of important capabilities that an agile project manager would need. The chapter provides a walkthrough of how a tool like VersionOne could be used to scale an agile project.