Dylan Dunagan

13 April 2025

CS-250 Software Development Lifecycle

Module Six Journal: Communication Practices and Project Management Tools

There is no doubt that communication plays an important role in project management. It in fact could be the most important aspect to project management. No matter how talented a team is, or what the project may be, bad communication can lead the entire project and team into a downward spiral that results in unfinished and unvaluable products. With good communication practices, the entire team can be set up for success at the start of the project. This results in high morale and a finished project that is not only valuable but also meets expectations.

Some common communication practices that promote openness and transparency in Agile are daily stand ups, sprint planning and reviews, information radiators, and retrospectives. Daily stand ups are used to quickly align the team for the day. It goes over what is done, what needs to be done, and what complications could arise. They allow the team to see the progress that has been made and provide visibility to those complications that the team may not have known about. Sprint planning allows the teams themselves to openly discuss their work. They can get on the same page what their expectations are and how to get the work done correctly. Information radiators are visual updates to keep everybody informed, promoting accountability within the teams. Retrospectives are how the team and the individuals can look inward and assess how they performed on the project or sprint. This also sheds light on what they could improve on in future projects. This also promotes accountability, but it also promotes honesty and builds trust among the team members. All these methods are effective at promoting openness and transparency because they are constantly showing the teams what the expectations are, what work needs to be completed, and what conflicts could start to derail the project, all while allowing the team to work together and make informed decisions themselves.

I think Module 5: Developer journal assignment has the best example of how communication can be used properly. In that assignment, the project owner learned that travel was trending towards health and wellness destinations and advised the team that the SNHU Travel website needed to change to meet the trend. The project owner told the team what the expectations were, and she had the transparency to let the team ask questions as well. Not all changes can happen smoothly, especially when certain topics can be misinterpreted. Not only did she address a major change that could create problems, but by allowing the team to have a seat at the table, the project was able to flex into what the new vision was effectively.

A tool like JIRA can be very beneficial to efficiently disseminating information during projects. First it allows task tracking, which keeps track of who on the team is doing what task and when those tasks need to be completed by. It also can provide the previously mentioned information radiator, giving a visual representation of the progress being made in real time. JIRA provides sprint planning by allowing the teams to estimate work and helps balance the sprints based on team capacity. JIRA is also transparent for all roles, meaning that better decisions can be made faster and with less complications. Lastly JIRA can integrate with other common tools such as Microsoft Teams and GitHub. There are other Agile project management tools out there that do the same things as JIRA does. The highlight of Agile project management tools is that they create a hub for communication for everyone involved. It provides quick and easy ways to disseminate information both up and down the chain all in one place.

Work Cited

Charles G. Cobb. (2015). The Project Manager’s Guide to Mastering Agile : Principles and Practices for an Adaptive Approach. *Wiley*

Kansy, D. (2024). Agile Values In a Modern Organization. *Scientific Papers of Silesian University of Technology. Organization & Management*.

Santoso, J. T., Raharjo, B., & Wibowo, M. C. (2024). Agile Project Management Practice to Support Project Management Success. *Quality – Access to Success*