CS - 250

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October 11, 2025

**6-2 Journal: Communication Practices and Project Management Tools**

**The Importance of Communication in an Agile Team**

Communication is the heartbeat of any Agile team. Practices like **daily stand-ups, sprint reviews, and information radiators** create openness, transparency, and trust between teammates. These methods ensure that progress, blockers, and goals are visible to everyone, reducing confusion and promoting accountability. According to Dingsøyr et al. (2022), frequent and structured communication practices in Agile frameworks enable continuous learning and faster problem resolution because feedback loops stay short. This level of transparency builds psychological safety—everyone knows the team’s direction, and no one feels left out of the loop.

During the **SNHU Travel project**, communication was essential when modifying and debugging the Slide Show feature. As the developer, I had to clearly communicate with the Product Owner and tester to confirm which features to prioritize and what changes aligned with user stories. In the **Vision Quest Software discussion**, our group practiced open communication through daily stand-up planning and role-based collaboration. For instance, our Scrum Master (Donovan) emphasized brief but consistent updates, while testers like Kyra and Larry promoted early and frequent testing discussions. These practices reflected the Agile principle of individuals and interactions being more valuable than tools and processes, keeping everyone aligned and adaptable.

**Effective Communication Practices**

Two communication practices that stood out were **daily stand-ups** and **retrospectives**. Daily stand-ups allowed quick updates on progress and blockers, ensuring we stayed focused on the sprint goal. Retrospectives provided a safe space to reflect on what worked and what didn’t. For example, during my Slide Show development, early discussions about missing image files and resource paths prevented rework later. These feedback moments helped us continuously improve. As Gregory and Crispin (2021) explain, strong communication practices in Agile testing and development foster shared ownership and early detection of risks.

**Using Agile Project-Management Tools**

Agile project-management tools like **JIRA** or **Azure Boards** are equally important for coordination and efficiency. These tools make sprint backlogs, user stories, and bug reports visible to everyone in real time. A good tool acts as a digital “information radiator,” providing live updates on task progress and ownership. For example, if the SNHU Travel project were managed in JIRA, each user story—like updating the Slide Show—could have its own ticket with comments, attachments, and sub-tasks for the developer, tester, and Product Owner. This would reduce miscommunication and eliminate dependency on long email chains. According to Serrador and Pinto (2023), Agile tools enhance synchronization across distributed teams and support decision-making with transparent metrics such as velocity and burndown rates.

**Conclusion**

Overall, effective communication is what makes Agile thrive. When teams combine clear, open dialogue with the right project-management tools, they reduce friction, deliver faster, and maintain high morale. Whether through a 10-minute stand-up or a JIRA dashboard, the key is ensuring everyone knows what’s happening, why it matters, and what’s next.

**References**

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