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CS-250 Journal: Module 6

Oct. 13, 2024

**Communication Practices and Project Management Tools**

* **What communication practices (such as information radiator, Scrum events, and so on) can create openness and transparency in a Scrum Team? Why?**

Creating openness and transparency in a Scrum Team is crucial for fostering collaboration and trust. There are several effective communication practices that can help the Scrum Team achieve this such as the Daily Scrum meeting. This short and focused meeting (usually 15 minutes) allows the team members to share progress/updates, discuss obstacles, and align on goals for the day. The Daily Scrum meeting also promotes collaboration, accountability and keeps everyone informed. Another tool at our disposal is an Information Radiator, like task boards or burn-down charts that provide a visual representation of the team’s progress. These can also be utilized online with software like Jira, Azure Boards, or GitLab. Information Radiators make it easy for the team and stakeholders to see the status of work being done at any given time, promoting openness and transparency.

* **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?**

For the Vision Quest scenario we used the Discussion Board as a proxy for a **Daily Scrum** or a **Regular Check-in**. First, we established our Roles and Responsibilities on the team; that way everyone knows who to approach for specific issues or questions. We were then able to establish an **Open Feedback Culture**; where our team members could give and receive constructive feedback on the discussion. By having the insight and input from a team member’s outside perspective, we discovered he interpreted the assignment a different way than we had been discussing it. After understanding from his point of view, we were able to adapt and change in a new direction. This was a perfect example of how Agile practices helped us enhance our communication, adapt to change, and deliver a better result we didn’t see.

* **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.**

By using an Agile project-management tool like JIRA, Scrum Teams can enhance coordination, improve visibility, and streamline their workflows; ultimately leading to increased efficiency and better project outcomes. The tool not only supports Agile principles but also facilitates a collaborative environment that empowers teams to deliver high-quality results. For instance, JIRA acts as a centralized information hub for project information. Team members can easily access and update task statuses, project timelines, and documentation, reducing the need for lengthy email chains or meetings. With customizable boards (Kanban or Scrum), JIRA can provide a visual representation of any work in progress. This allows team members to see the status of tasks at any given moment, helping them prioritize and manage their workload effectively. Another key feature of JIRA is its ability to facilitate real-time updates, allowing team members to comment on issues, tag each other, and share feedback instantly. This enhances communication and keeps everyone aligned, regardless of their physical location (Main Office, Work from home, Offsite Location, Foreign Partnership, etc.).