6-2 Journal: Communication Practices and Project Management Tools

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Information radiators are essential and most effective in my opinion as they have the ability to provide information critical to the production of features to be shipped. In a Scrum team this would provide the openness and transparency required to keep everyone on the same page. Information radiators can be maintained in several ways. The most popular might include a Scrum board, which can be a whiteboard notated in marker or sticky note that denotes who is working on what task and the stage it’s currently in or if it's completed. When this information is visible to everyone, the team can make intelligent decisions within each sprint.

One communication practice adopted by my team was the daily stand up exercises that occurred every morning. We would discuss what stages assigned tasks are currently in and what conflicts may have arisen. This also provided an opportunity for team members to collaborate on tasks if needed which expedited production and testing of features. Daily stand ups are a focal point for project issues, collaboration efforts, priority assessments, and other project related work that might need to be reviewed while producing product features.

Jira is a wonderful project management tool that allows PM’s to perform tasks such as creating product backlogs, Epic designing, and workflow management. With Jira, large projects with many areas of uncertainty can be created and worked to completion by providing an interface to decompose project areas and continue the deconstruction process utilizing an agile design methodology. Big projects can be broken down into individual epics that run a given number of sprint iterations, over a scheduled amount of time. Product backlogs can be maintained reprioritized as needed, allowing the project to stay on track with structured planning as well as maintain agility to shift when needed. For SNHU Tavel, Jira could allow for the ease in planning the transition to detox and wellness vacations.