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Communication Practices and Project Management Tools

While the use of scrum events such as the daily Scrum and the sprint review are extremely useful for open and transparent communication, I think the practice that I like best is the information radiator. Since it is large and in a central place where everyone can see it, I think that it offers the best opportunity for showing information to the most amount of people. Another thing I like about the information radiator is that it is updated in real time, unlike the daily Scrum, which is once a day, or the sprint review, which is only once a sprint.

I would say that the message board is our main communication practice in this class. It is similar to the information radiator since everyone has access to it and can post at any time, although you only get as much out of it as you and other people put in since there are no actual tasks to assign. Another communication tool we have is email. While it doesn’t really count as a face to face style of communication, it is probably the closest thing that we have in a digital classroom.

VersionOne is an agile project management tool that is discussed in this module. While I have never personally used it, it sounds like an awesome tool to use with a Scrum team. It has a feature called Conversations which allows collaboration between you and team members, kind of like a social media platform. This improves visibility and sharing information with other team members. It also has task and project monitoring, which allows you to see how the project is progressing in real time. There are also 50 agile based metrics which will give you better insight to make decisions. And finally, it is easy to use, which is probably the most important factor since no one would use it if it was hard to use. There are many other types of agile project management tools as well, such as Rally, Jira/Greenhopper, Rational Team Concert, and Microsoft TFS.