Stephanie Douglas

Journal: Communication Practices and Project Management Tools

One agile methodology principle is increased communication. Communication between team members will increase the visibility of the project progress. This is one reason why many teams opt to practicing the agile methodology. Another reason using the agile methodology is beneficial is because it encourages continuous integration. Scrum events, such as the daily Scrum meeting, create an environment for continuous improvement. The agile methodology loosely follows a pathway of plan, design, develop, test, deploy, and review. At that point the team would decide if they need to design more and the project would go through the pathway again, or if the project is ready to be launched. Project management tools are great to use to help the team stay on track and plan next best steps.

There are many project management tools that can aid in organizing projects. One tool that stands out from the rest, and is widely used, is Azure Boards. The front end of this tool displays tiles where each tile is a product. Each tile will have a name associated to it, which is the Product Owner. It is this individual’s responsibility to see the project through. Within the tile, tasks can be assigned to team members and details about the product’s implementation plan and progress are added. This tool also has the ability to customize tiles with tags that display on the front end. The front end can organize the tiles by not started, in progress, and complete, or any other category that best fit what your team needs. These features organize an agile team. Typically, on a weekly basis all team members across various departments will meet to review the product tiles on Azure Boards. Any questions or concerns can be addressed between the various teams. In many cases, it can expose tasks that have not been met or have not made progress. In which case within each category the tiles can be placed as a hierarchy. For example, within the in progress category a tile that has a shorter timeframe to be completed should appear at the top of the list, while other projects with a greater timeframe can be organized at the bottom of the list. It is clear why Azure Boards is widely used, as it keeps agile teams organized and it has features that provide a clear display of projects.