Journal 6-2

In my experience as part of an agile team, communication is crucial within an agile team. There are certain communication practices that need to be consistent, such as daily standups, information radiators, sprint reviews, and retrospectives. Daily standups are very important; usually, it is a short, focused meeting where each team member is able to share their progress, blockers, and plans. By doing these consistently, this helps create accountability as well as visibility and ensures that no one works in isolation. Information radiators are typically tools like task boards and burndown charts, and an example is (JIRA dashboards), which help stakeholders and teams being able to grasp the project status. Having these boards or charts gives a visual transparency and reduces the need for constant updates and proactive when it comes to problem-solving. Sprint reviews and retrospectives are Scrum events that give us space to be able to reflect on how or what went well, what might not have gone well, and how we could improve. Doing these helps us for continuous learning, especially when getting feedback provides specific and constructive feedback. All three of these practices help build trust, reduce ambiguity, and make sure everyone is on the same page and working towards shared goals.

In the SNHU Travel project, I would say there was one thing that stood out to me as in communication practice, and that would be the shared documents. We could track our progress, task assignments, and user stories. This was effective because we all had access to the same information, which helped reduce any miscommunication. It supported collaboration, which is crucial, as I mentioned above, in an agile team, especially when everyone has different schedules. Also, the group discussions helped clarify any expectations or blockers we may have encountered, which allowed us to be able to provide peer feedback.

The agile project management tool JIRA was instrumental for coordinating our efforts and helped give us a boost in team efficiency by task tracking, workflow visualization, metrics, and reporting. We were able to task-track each user story and subtask clearly, defined, prioritized, and assigned. Task Tracking seemed to help keep us well organized and helped make sure everything was covered, nothing was missed. The workflow visualization boards helped us see which tasks were currently in progress, blocked, or completed.  This helped us avoid any bottlenecks that may occur, as well as helped us manage dependencies. JIRA’s built-in reports, as mentioned above, helped us gain insight into team performance and helped us be able to predict the sprints with more accuracy. Centralizing communication, along with task management, helps JIRA reduce any overhead and helps us focus on being able to deliver value.

# References

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