

Scrum board tools

Introduction

An important element of any agile project is the backlog. This is where all the requirements and tasks needed for the final product are kept. The scrum board/tool will help you run and organize sprints by letting you update the backlog as the product progresses.

It is also very easy to track progress with its transparency and to prioritize tasks. In this document 7 of the leading scrum tools/methods will be discussed. Although these tools have different interfaces and costs, their purpose is very similar in helping with organization. Furthermore some of the choices will still be discussed even though we would not pick them from the start at this moment because of the price

Choices:

1. Trello

Pros:

- User-friendly, anyone can use trello and the design is simple.
- Email notification system which also works on mobile.
- Updates real-time

Cons:

- Reliant on a stable internet connection.
- Limited storage with the free version.
- Cards/tasks are restricted to 1 board.

2. Jira

Pros:

- Versatile because you can assign tasks and include them in mini goals/projects
- Has a view of all the user stories
- Can generate a report for each sprint

Cons:

- Jira can be very complex and has quite a confusing UI so newer users can struggle to use it well.

- Jira comes with a 10mb file limit which stops documents or certain images from being uploaded

3. Git Issues

Pros:

- Very easy to use
- Completely free
- Suitable for beginners and low scale agile projects

Cons:

- Lacks advanced features compared to other tools
- Not suitable for larger scale projects
- Internal for school so it's harder for non-fontys people to access(Not a problem if using the external GitLab)

4. Post-it notes

Pros:

- Most basic way of organizing
- Writing your notes on paper and visualising them on a wall helps other keep track of tasks better
- Helps communication in person

Cons:

- Only overview of the tasks can be written on a note without going in detail because of the space limitation
- Because of Covid-19 they are not a feasible option for group projects at the moment

5. Axosoft

Pros:

- Option to email tickets to design/development team
- Accepts user feedback from a prototype in the real world for the team (Axosoft LLC, 2021)

Cons:

- Very expensive with the most affordable package coming in at over 100 euros (Axosoft LLC, 2021)
- Hard to use with a steep learning curve and confusing UI (Deeksha, 2019)

6. Monday

Pros:

- Highly integrable with many other applications such as: Slack, Google Drive, Gmail, Google Calendar etc. (FinancesOnline, 2021)
- Time tracking capabilities are very detailed
- Customizable notifications
- Easy to create, filter and sort backlogs

Cons:

- Only offers basic reports and charts to get an overview of the sprint progress (Aston, 2021)

7. Kanbanize

Pros:

- Intuitive to use if you've used kanban tools before such as Trello
- Complex and highly customizable tool intended for efficiency and large scale Agile projects (FinancesOnline, 2021)

Cons:

- Has a lot of features so inexperienced programmers may be intimidated at first sight
- Does not offer as many integration opportunities compared to other tools
- Price plan is expensive, starting at \$149.00 per month without any free version available (Kanbanize, 2021)

Conclusion

For this project, our team Certiorem agreed to use the GitLab issue boards for organizational purposes. Some reasons for this choice are the fact that all of us are already familiar with it, the fact that it is easy to use, as well as being free. We didn't deem it necessary to use more

complex or advanced tools because our agile project is not our big one and our team is small as well.

Also, when we commit to our repository we can mention issues/tasks which makes it easy to see which commit solved which issue/completed a certain task. Lastly, many of the fancy features that the other tools offer such as external integrations, time tracking, filtering and sorting are just unnecessary for our project.