CS 250 Module Six Journal: Communication Practices and Project Management Tools

Throughout this course, I served in different Scrum roles, including Scrum Master, Product Owner, developer, and tester for the SNHU Travel project. One of the most important lessons I learned is that communication is essential in Agile development. Without clear communication, user stories become unclear, tasks are misunderstood, and sprint goals are harder to achieve.

Several communication practices promote openness and transparency in a Scrum Team. Information radiators, such as task boards and sprint backlogs, allow everyone to see the status of work at any time. This visibility increases accountability and reduces confusion. Scrum events like the Daily Scrum and Sprint Review also encourage transparency. Daily Scrums allow team members to share progress and identify obstacles, while Sprint Reviews provide opportunities for stakeholder feedback. According to Schwaber and Sutherland, transparency is one of the three pillars of Scrum and supports effective decision-making.

An example of effective communication occurred when developing user stories and test cases for the SNHU Travel project. As the tester, I realized some acceptance criteria were unclear. Communicating with the Product Owner helped clarify expectations before development moved forward. This prevented misunderstandings and reduced rework. From this experience, I learned that asking questions early improves efficiency and product quality.

In addition to Scrum events, Agile project-management tools help coordinate teamwork. For example, Jira helps teams track user stories, assign tasks, and monitor sprint progress in one shared system. Jira boards visually organize tasks into stages such as "To Do" and "Done,"

which improves collaboration and accountability. Atlassian explains that Agile tools increase efficiency by providing shared visibility and real-time updates.

Overall, communication practices and Agile tools are critical for team success. My experience in each Scrum role showed me that clear, proactive communication supports flexibility, reduces errors, and ensures the team delivers value to stakeholders.

References

Atlassian. (2023). *Agile project management with Jira*. https://www.atlassian.com

Schwaber, K., & Sutherland, J. (2020). *The Scrum Guide*. Scrum.org. https://scrumguides.org