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Reflecting on the various Scrum roles I've journaled over the last several assignments, it is clear that each is vital to the success of a Scrum project; the Scrum Master for their ability to optimize team performance, the Product Owner for their ability to communicate and maximize the value realized from the project, and the development team for their ability to deliver a product that meets all requirements that will delight the client. The ultimate success of the team is dependent upon an excellent communication plan, and tools that increase transparency and visibility.

The most basic and universal means of communication that an agile team uses is the information radiator which can take several forms, from a wall with stick notes to an online Kanban board that tracks the status of various tasks within a sprint. For many projects, project management software, like Jira or Azure Boards, is used. Such tools are particularly important for distributed teams and larger enterprise projects. These systems allow for the tracking of both the Product Backlog and the Sprint Backlog - as well as the assignment of tasks and tools for team collaboration.

For instance, Jira provides tools to manage the Product Backlog, Epics, Stories, and tasks, while lining to tools like Git to manage code, Slack for team communication, and other tools for testing and DevOps. It provides templates to define scope, assign story points, and other grooming activities - and other tools that help a team document the project requirements, as well as tools to track progress, including Kanban boards and burndown charts.

It is important to keep in mind that Scrum emphasizes people over tools. The choice of tools, from simple to sophisticated, is secondary to keeping open communication among all the



stakeholders of a project. The Scrum framework provides many official and unofficial communication opportunities, including Daily Scrums, Sprint Planning, Story Time, Sprint Review, and Sprint Retrospective. Scrum encourages informal discussions between team members and assumes close collaboration between development team members.

Open and transparent communication within a scrum team and between stakeholders is essential to a successful deliverable. Scrum is designed to produce a near-constant flow of communication. Combined with the use of some form of an information radiator, provides a level of transparency not seen in traditional project management.