Module 6 Journal

Jordan Richardson

CS 250

4/10/25

In Agile development, effective communication is at the heart of team success. One of the most important practices that supports this is the use of information radiators, such as physical task boards or digital tools like Jira or Azure DevOps Boards. These radiators create openness and transparency by making everyone’s work visible in real-time, allowing the team to track progress, identify blockers, and adjust quickly. This visibility supports not just productivity but trust. Something I’ve learned is crucial across every Scrum role I’ve played throughout the course (Cobb, 2015).

Throughout this course, it became clear that team alignment hinges on the ability to see the flow of work. Practices like daily standups, backlog grooming and sprint reviews are only as effective as the information being shared. When tasks are visible, statuses are updated, and blockers are flagged early, the team can stay focused and avoid unnecessary delays. Communication wasn’t just frequent, but it was purposeful. Even small gestures like updating task cards or tagging team members with clarifying questions help maintain momentum and foster a collaborative rhythm.

Tools like Azure boards support this by offering sprint planning views, customizable dashboards, and real-times updates on task status (Microsoft, n.d). For distributed teams or asynchronous collaboration, this becomes essential. As Cobb (2015) points out, digital information radiators reduce the need for a manager to constantly relay updates because the tool allows the team to self-organize and take ownership.

Likewise, Jira promotes transparency with its agile boards, burndown charts and backlog prioritization tools (Atlassian, n.d.). When paired with other practices like sprint reviews and retrospectives, these tools create a culture of continuous feedback and improvement. Agile isn’t just about speed, its about creating shared goals and good communication is what turns a set of tasks into a true team effort.

In reflections, every role I experienced through this course, from tester to product owner, highlighted the need for openness, structure and frequent communication. Agile project management tools don’t replace these conversations; they support and extend them, especially when teams are distributed. Whether through physical stickies or digital dashboards, visibility and accountability are what drive real Agile success.

**References**

Atlassian. (n.d.). *Jira software for Agile teams*. Atlassian. Retrieved April 10, 2025, from <https://www.atlassian.com/software/jira>

Cobb, C. G. (2015). *The project manager’s guide to mastering Agile: Principles and practices for an adaptive approach*. Wiley.

Microsoft. (n.d.). *What is Azure Boards?*. Microsoft Learn. Retrieved April 10, 2025, from <https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/devops/boards/get-started/what-is-azure-boards?view=azure-devops&tabs=agile-process>