CS 250 Journal

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*What communication practices (such as information radiator, Scrum events, and so on) can create openness and transparency in a Scrum Team? Why?*

Daily Scrums or Stand-ups led by the development team, with the Product Owner in attendance as an observer (and to answer any questions) when time permits, can help the individual teams share the blockers and look for outside guidance if needed. The other two less frequent but equally important practices are the Sprint Planning and the Sprint Review meetings with the development team and any stakeholders that can attend. These meetings allow for cross-team collaboration and transparency. Information radiators are a more physical tool that allows the team to see the actual progress being made in real-time.

*Consider an example from the SNHU Travel assignments or from the group discussions in this course that helped your team complete their work. What communication practices were particularly effective?*

During the assignment and group discussions what I found most helpful were the emails or the videos of the scrum meetings. I think I prefer the written communication and visual aids for my personal reference throughout, but the meetings themselves are more helpful for the collaboration and planning process. Collectively the group agreed that the Daily Scrums were a vital part to a successful team.

*Describe how an Agile project-management tool (such as JIRA, Azure Boards, or RTC) can help coordinate and increase efficiency within the team. Be certain to consider a tool and not a Scrum event.*

I’m a fan of Jira since I’ve used that in the past already (and I like Atlassian products) but I would say that putting my bias aside Jira and Azure Boards offer similar tools to help a team thrive. Jira has Scrum geared resources like Boards, Backlogs, Timelines, and Reports that the team can use to plan, track, and retro the sprints. Azure DevOps (which includes Azure Boards) has similar tools in a different layout. Azure is more easily integrated with the Microsoft ecosystem, while Jira is more customizable project management and reporting focused. (Microsoft, 2025) (Atlassian, 2025)

# Works Cited

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