CS 250: Team Collaboration

CS Journal

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The Agile Product Management Framework sets up the structure of the Software Development Lifecycle (SDLC). It also defines roles for each member in the team and their associated responsibilities. Agile also gives you suggestions for what abilities you will need in specific tools during your SDLC with Agile. It then becomes your choice to pick tools that work well with your team and the needs of your client.

When working with Agile several pre-formatted lists are needed to be created and possibly used multiple times. This sets up the perfect scenario for a template to be used. VersionOne is an all-encompassing software for Agile. It provides sections and templates for Agile documents with include daily stand-up, burndown charts, backlog, etc. If I had access to this program it would definitely be used to manage each Agile project. In our class though, it was shown that even on a small or non-existing budget team, simple Office Excel spreadsheets could be utilized for various required documents in Agile. We will go over three of the main areas, Full Agile Process Lifecycle, Team and Customer Collaboration, and Agile Portfolio and Program Management.

Full Agile Process Lifecycle

The entire lifecycle of a project in Agile spans from Planning to Code Integration to Testing to Release. We need a tool that can encompass all of these areas with ease of use (themes) and with collaboration of multiple team members (no matter their physical location) in my mind.

Team and Customer Collaboration

This area needs to responsive. Although emailing is a great option is there anything better? Yes, a program like Slack, a instant chat and file/code sharing platform, can expedite the question and answer process. When a developer has a question or needs clarification, they can request an answer by simply posting in forum type setting or direct messaging the tester themselves. Slack can handle all sorts of data and code snippets, as well as any team size. Each Slack channel can be added for each project, allowing for independency with the same program. Other programs to use could be Amazon Web Service Code Commit or Code Pipeline, especially if the costumer is already prepared to take the product into the cloud. Integration in AWS for the Agile Team will help with release times, response rate, code updates, bugs/fixes, etc.

Agile Portfolio and Program Management

Another area that will benefit from instant connectivity to the team when starting new sprints, setting up meetings, modifying the backlog and user stories. The ability to access functions like bubble boards, burndown charts, and a central location to store all of this will be key to the quick implementation of any Agile Team’s tool.

These tools are the three main areas I see needed to be integrated the best. If these three areas are properly focused and connected, then all other tools added to the Agile Team’s arsenal will only enhance the team’s overall success and set this Agile Team above any others. If available a developer could be tasked to ensure all of this is up and running, with any API calls and code functionality, will ensure that if any problems do arise they can quickly be dispatched. The set needs to also be in the same location where the majority of the work is done and held onto. This helps with latency of any file transfer, and the ability to see any unforeseen problems.