CS 250 Module Six Journal

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**The Importance of Communication in an Agile Team**

Effective communication is the cornerstone of success in Agile development. Scrum teams rely on transparency, collaboration, and continuous feedback to deliver value efficiently. Communication practices such as information radiators, daily Scrum meetings, and retrospectives foster openness by ensuring all members are aware of project progress, obstacles, and shared goals.

Information radiators—like task boards or burndown charts—display the team’s work status in a highly visible way, allowing both developers and stakeholders to quickly assess progress. Regular Scrum events also reinforce transparency. For example, Sprint Reviews invite stakeholders to view completed work, while Daily Stand-ups provide a space for team members to synchronize efforts and address blockers in real time. These practices reduce miscommunication and promote collective ownership of outcomes.

**Examples of Effective Communication Practices**

During the SNHU Travel project, my team benefited greatly from maintaining consistent communication throughout each sprint. We held daily check-ins where everyone briefly discussed what they accomplished, what they planned next, and any impediments they faced. This structure mirrored the Agile Daily Scrum format and made it easier to identify dependencies early.

Another effective practice was using a shared Kanban board to track tasks visually. This allowed the entire team to see what was in progress and what was completed, creating accountability and motivation. The combination of real-time verbal updates and visual progress tracking fostered trust and transparency, ensuring that all members stayed aligned even when working asynchronously.

**Agile Project-Management Tools**

Agile project-management tools such as JIRA or Azure Boards enhance coordination and efficiency within development teams. These tools centralize project information, providing a digital workspace where tasks, user stories, and sprints can be tracked. JIRA, for instance, allows users to assign tasks, estimate effort, and visualize workflow through customizable Scrum or Kanban boards.

Such tools also streamline communication by integrating with messaging and documentation systems (like Slack or Confluence). This reduces confusion and eliminates the need for scattered updates across multiple channels. Moreover, automated reporting features—such as burndown charts or sprint velocity graphs—help Scrum Masters and Product Owners make data-driven decisions to improve efficiency in future iterations.

**Conclusion**

Clear, consistent communication is vital to the success of Agile teams. By leveraging structured Scrum events and tools like JIRA, teams can maintain visibility, alignment, and adaptability throughout development. These practices not only enhance collaboration but also reinforce the Agile principles of transparency, inspection, and continuous improvement—ensuring that the final product meets both user and stakeholder needs.

**References**

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