3 Popular Agile Project Management Tools
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We surveyed 303 project managers who work with project management software to manage agile projects and these are the top 3 products reported in use.

Each of these products offer a core set of functionality: task management, collaboration, and project tracking and reporting. And to be included as an agile project management tool, additional features that support scrum, kanban, and/or hybrid methodologies are required.

Presented in alphabetical order, below are the popular agile project management tools we'll cover.

Here's what we'll cover:

1. Atlassian's JIRA
2. Microsoft Project
3. Smartsheet

Next Steps
### 1. JIRA

**Product overview:** Atlassian’s JIRA originated as an agile software development tracking tool and has grown to support projects of many types. JIRA is designed to support agile teams with a structure that values supporting collaboration over process, visual representations of work, and responding to changes rather than adhering to a strict plan.

**Pricing:** JIRA offers a free version for up to 10 users with limited functionality. For audit reports and other features, their next package is $10 per user per month (discount available for 11+ users per month). They offer a free trial.

**Distinguishing features:**

- Create custom workflows for sprints, tasks, and subtasks.
- Generate high-impact visuals for project reporting, tracking sprints, and burndown and velocity charts.
- Manage not only project teams, but also teams with ongoing efforts and tasks.
2. Microsoft Project

Product overview: Microsoft Project is a project management solution designed for businesses of all sizes. MS Project has been a Software Advice project management FrontRunner since 2017. It features project scheduling broken down in sprints or phases, resource allocation, and budget tracking. Waterfall, agile, and hybrid project methodologies are fully supported.

Pricing: Microsoft Project’s initial, cloud-based offering—Project Plan 1—costs $10 per user per month, with an annual commitment required. For reporting and resource management you’ll need Project Plan 3, which is $30 per user per month. (Features vary by deployment type and package versions.)

Microsoft Project offers both cloud and on-premise deployments.

Distinguishing features:

- View tasks in waterfall, kanban, or scrum layouts using templates.
- Perform “Earned Value Analytics” and estimate the cost performance of projects.
- Pull project reports specifically created for agile projects, with filters such as task and/or sprint statuses.
3. Smartsheet

Product overview: Smartsheet is a work and project management platform based in a familiar spreadsheet-like interface to help teams plan, track, and manage projects in real time. It offers document and resource management, project reporting, and timeline tracking. Smartsheet has been a Software Advice project management FrontRunner every year since 2016.

Pricing: Smartsheet's Individual license is $14 per month (when billed annually). For reporting dashboards and multiple users, you’ll need their Business license which starts at $25 per user per month (when billed annually).

Smartsheet also offers an Enterprise version with advanced security controls and has integration options with JIRA, Salesforce, and others.

Distinguishing features:

- Create agile project plans using templated sheets that generate the task backlog and sprints.
- Use Smartsheet's “Feature Prioritization” sheet to help formulate which tasks should be included in which sprint.
- Switch between Gantt, Grid, and Card views of tasks depending on whether you’d like to show a waterfall, agile, or hybrid project or sprint overview.
Next steps

We know how difficult making a software decision can be, and these are just 3 of hundreds of project management solutions to choose from. In order to make the best decision for your business, here’s a quick guide through your next steps.

1. Write out the software functionality that aligns with your specific business needs.
2. Make a shortlist of products that meet those needs.
3. Hold demo meetings with the vendors on your shortlist.
4. Compare the products to your features list and stick to it—don’t get persuaded by a charismatic salesperson.

If you need help choosing a specific project management tool, you can speak with one of software expert advisors. Our advisors provide free, personalized software recommendations, and can help you narrow down the best products for your business.

Schedule an appointment with an advisor here.