

An Introduction to Agile/Scrum

Jeff Pulcini
Cyber Security Workshop
October 3, 2020

Today's Goals

- Give you the big picture, concepts, and keywords of Agile/Scrum
- Contrast Agile with traditional waterfall methods
- Answer why we should care?

Ground Rules

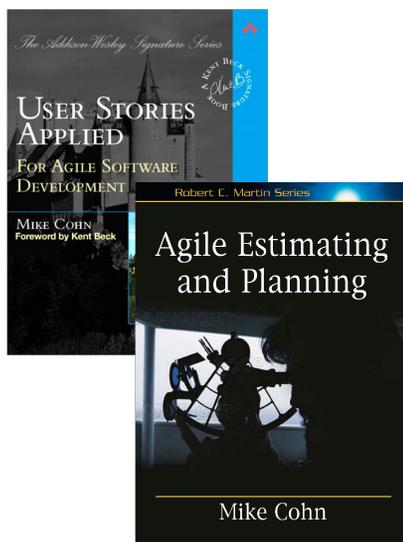
I'm not going to be rigorous in history or definitions.

I'm likely to make extreme statements to make the point.

We will talk software development, but Agile can be used for anything.

INTERACTIVE

CREDITS



Base presentation was done by:
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Other portions are credited as
appropriate.

Additional material by Jeff Pulcini



Mountain Goat Software,
LLC



Problem Statement

Today, we need to...

- Produce products faster and for less
- Maximize the actual and perceived value we deliver
- Keep up with the pace of change in the market

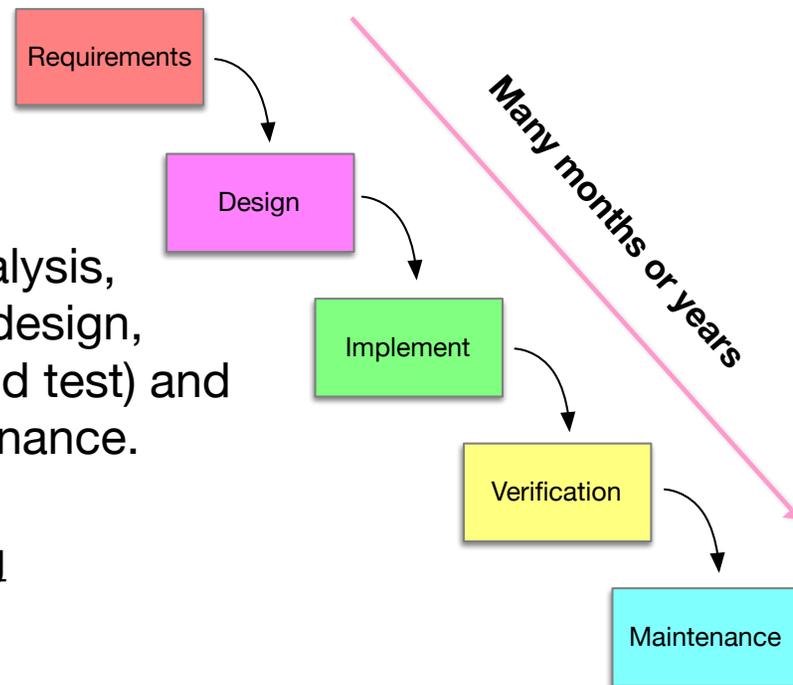
So, what's broken?

Answer:

Our philosophy

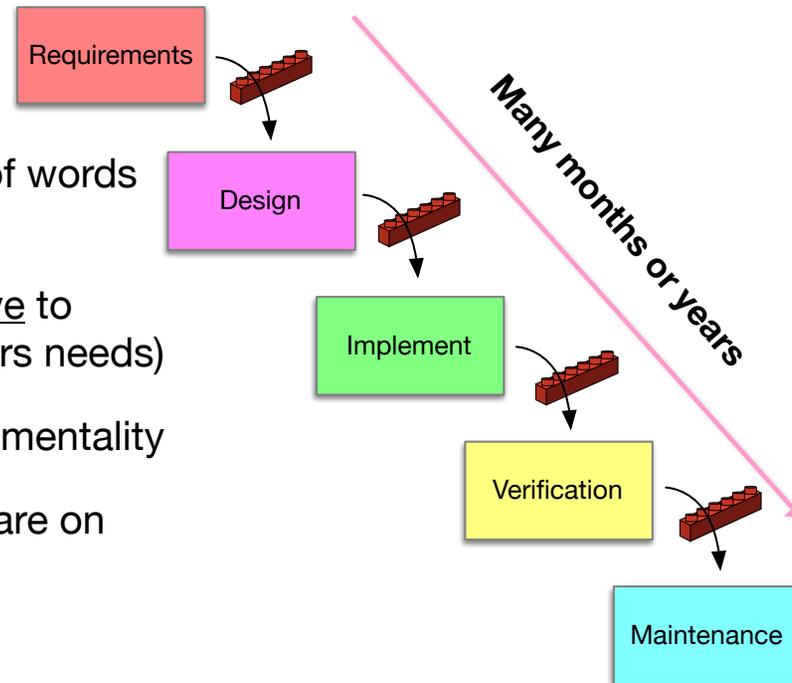
Waterfall Project Management Methodology

- A step-wise approach to product delivery
- It is a relay race of analysis, requirements definition, design, Implementation (code and test) and then delivery and maintenance.
- Product delivery is a “big bang”/“all or nothing”

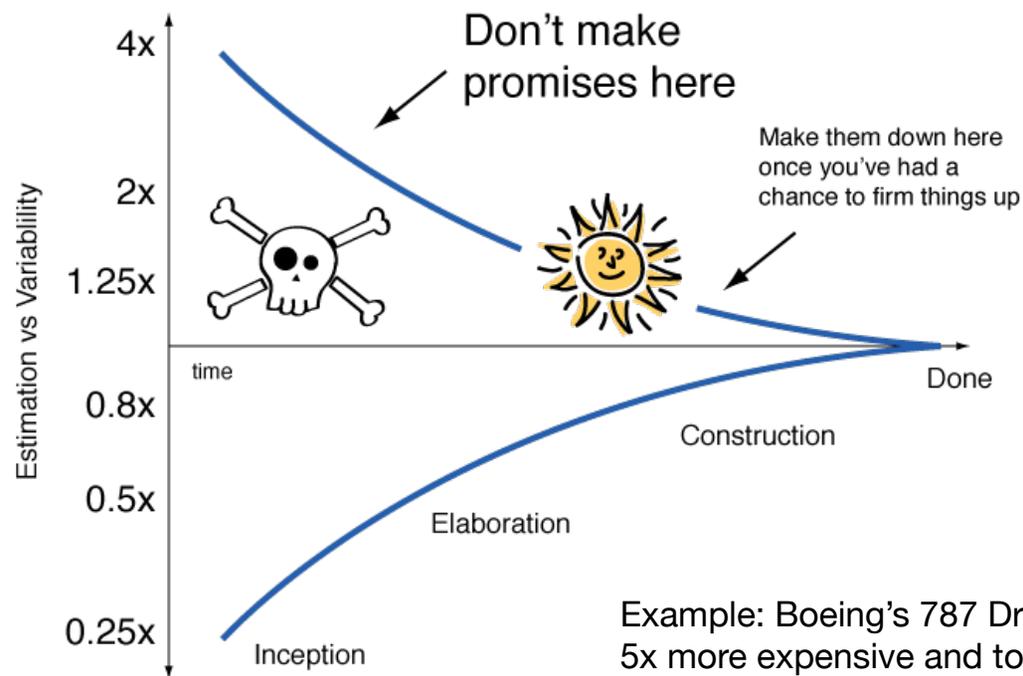


Downside of This Approach

- Focus is primarily on process, not people
- Formal communications, Lots of words on paper
- Rigid in execution. Unresponsive to changing markets (and thus users needs)
- Each step fosters a them vs. us mentality
- Plan based - We measure if we are on track, not what we have done
- Long development cycles
- **You know the least when you start**



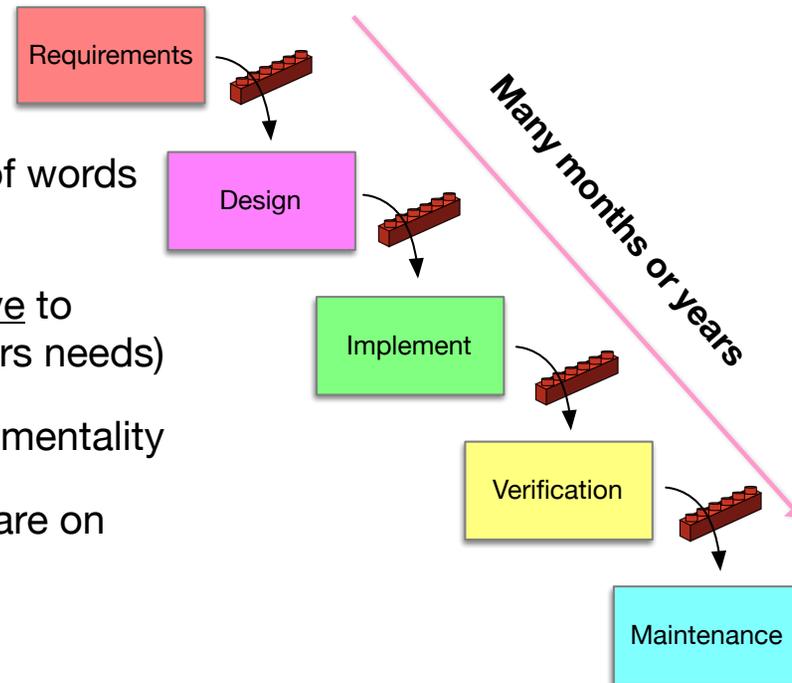
Cone of Uncertainty



As described by Steve McConnell, Software Estimation: Demystifying the Black Art

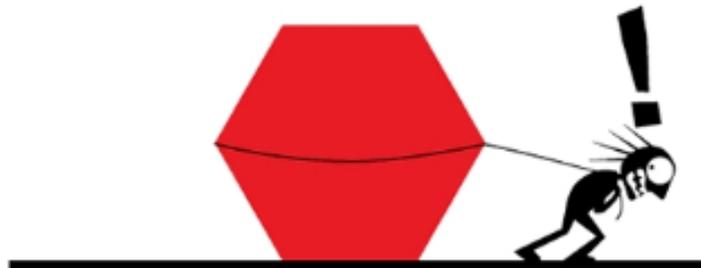
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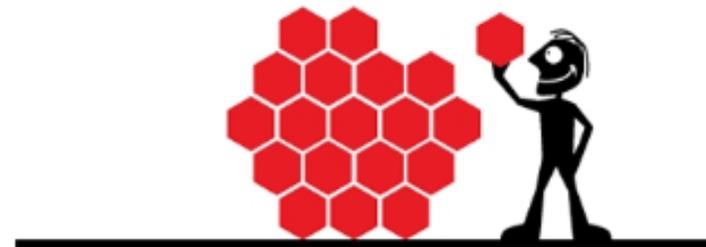
Waterfall vs. Agile

THE WATERFALL PROCESS



*'This project has got so big,
I'm not sure I'll be able to deliver it!'*

THE AGILE PROCESS



*'It's so much better delivering this
project in bite-sized sections'*

Process Comparison

- At a **high level**, both processes will deliver a product
- The **difference** is in weight, execution, philosophy, and value delivered
- Waterfall is Command and Control - Agile is about communications and personal responsibility
- Agile and Scrum are Empirical Project Management
 - Based on Statistical Process Control (Shewhart and Deming) and Lean Manufacturing
 - Frequent Inspect and Adapt Cycles

A Quick Poll

I like to work...

1. By myself with specific, written requirements and/or process and not bothered with other people
2. By myself, but with general requirements and with access to others to discuss requirements, and issues
3. In collaboration a partner with access to a team associated with the project
4. In a large room with many people so I can overhear conversations

When I work, I like to:

1. Be told exactly what to do with little latitude for interpretation.
2. Be given a goal specific enough that I know where I am going, but allowing me flexibility in achieving that goal.

I have worked on the following types of projects:

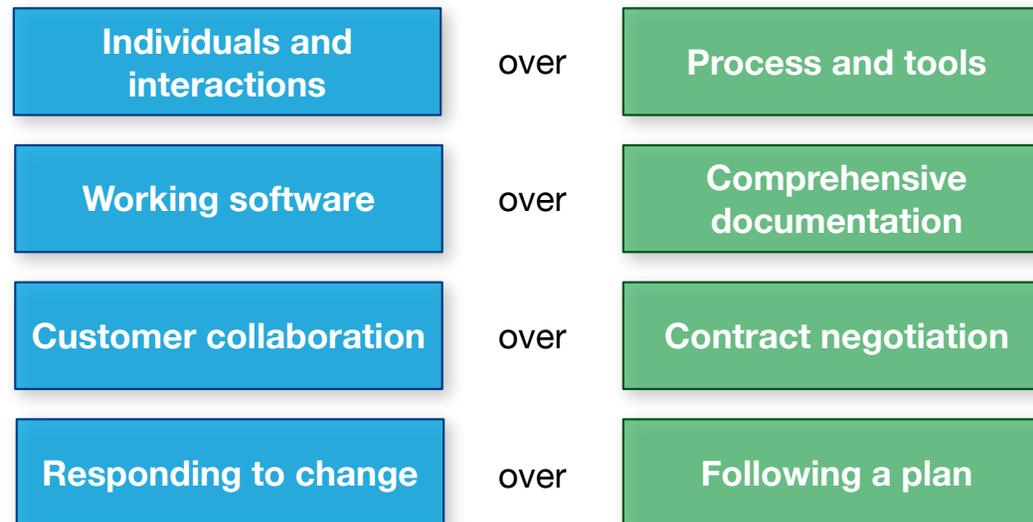
1. Small personal projects
2. Medium to large personal projects
3. Small projects in a business
4. Medium projects in a business
5. Large projects in a business

Agile

**A Philosophy to
Change Our Mindset**

The Agile Manifesto

“We are uncovering better ways of developing software by doing it and helping others do it. **Through this work we have come to value**



That is, while there is value on the items on the right, we value the items on the left more.”

Leadership - Mission First, People Always?

In 2009, James Zenger published a fascinating survey of 60,000 employees [...] Two of the characteristics that Zenger examined were results focus and social skills. [...] if a leader was seen as being very strong on results focus, the chance of that leader being seen as a great leader was only 14%. [...] If a leader was strong on social skills, he or she was seen as a great leader even less of the time — a paltry 12%

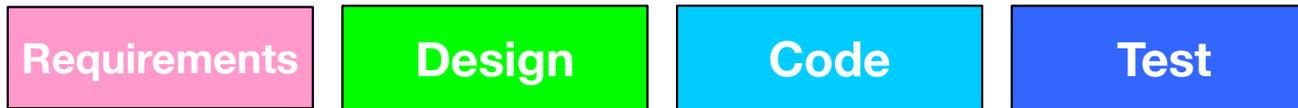
However, for leaders who were strong in both results focus and in social skills, the likelihood of being seen as a great leader skyrocketed to 72%.

Should Leaders Focus on Results, or on People?, Dr. Matt Lieberman, Harvard Business Review, December 27, 2013

12 Agile Principles

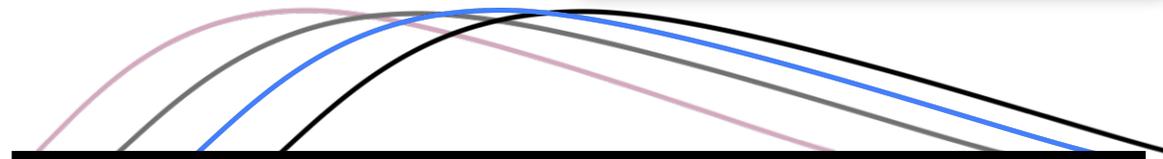
1. **Our highest priority is to satisfy the customer** through early and continuous delivery of valuable software.
2. **Welcome changing requirements**, even late in development. Agile processes harness change for the customer's competitive advantage.
3. **Deliver working software frequently**, from a couple of weeks to a couple of months, with a preference to the shorter timescale.
4. **Business people and developers must work together daily throughout the project.**
5. **Build projects around motivated individuals.** Give them the environment and support they need, and trust them to get the job done.
6. The most **efficient and effective method of conveying information** to and within a development team **is face-to-face conversation.**
7. **Working software is the primary measure of progress.**
8. **Agile processes promote sustainable development.** The sponsors, developers, and users should be able to maintain a **constant pace indefinitely.**
9. Continuous **attention to technical excellence** and good design enhances agility.
10. **Simplicity**--the art of **maximizing the amount of work not done**--is essential.
11. The best architectures, requirements, and designs emerge from **self-organizing teams.**
12. At regular intervals, **the team** reflects on how to become more effective, then **tunes and adjusts its behavior** accordingly.

Sequential vs. overlapping development



Rather than doing all of one thing at a one time...

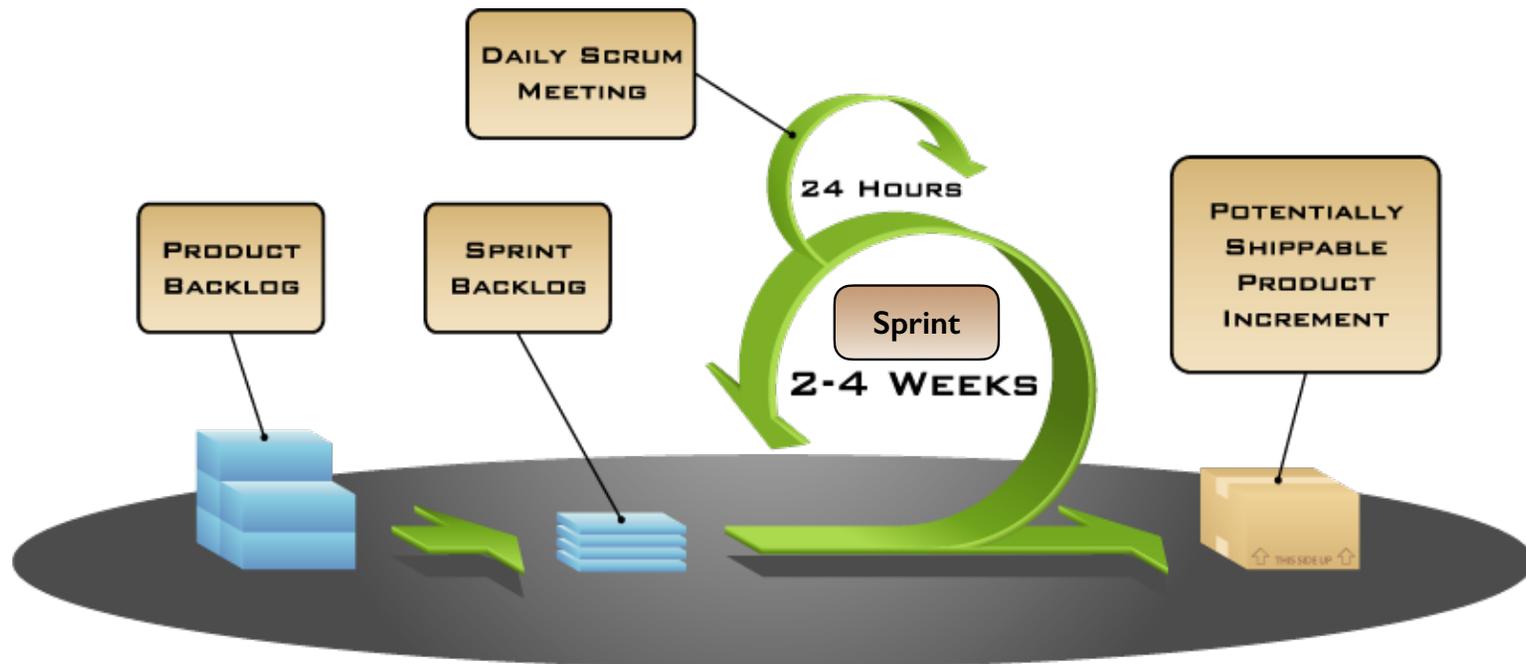
...Scrum teams do a little of everything all the time



Source: "The New New Product Development Game" by Takeuchi and Nonaka. *Harvard Business Review*, January 1986.

A Framework - Scrum

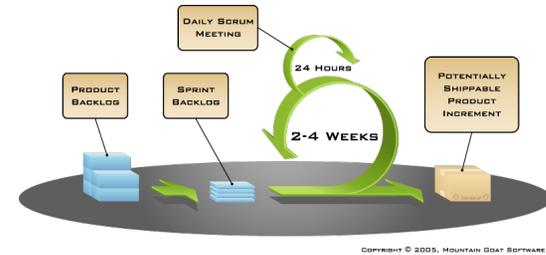
The Big Picture



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Image available at www.mountaingoatsoftware.com/scrum

Characteristics



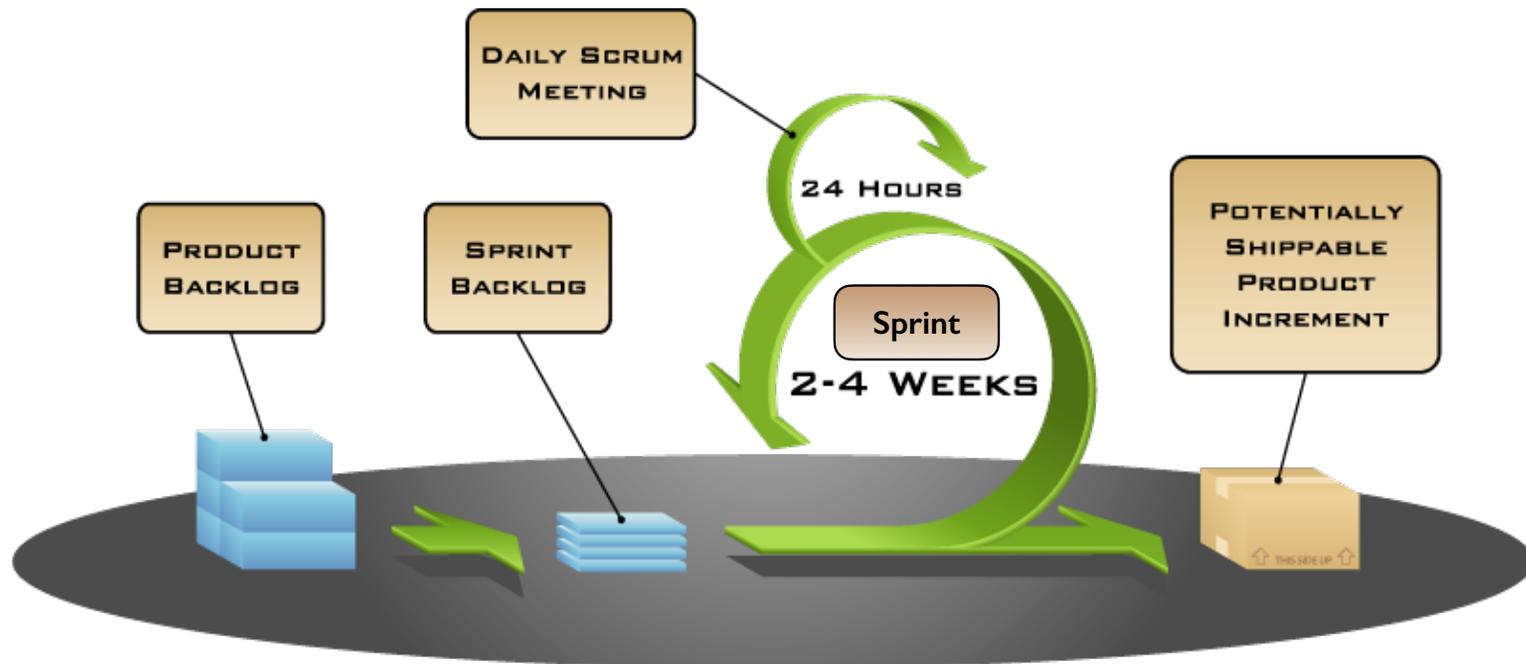
- Requirements are captured as items in a list of “product backlog”
- Product progresses in a series of short “sprints”
- Self-organizing teams
- No specific engineering practices prescribed
- Uses generative rules to create an agile environment for delivering projects

Generative Rules

- Think of the word “general”. Dee Hock, former CEO of Visa said.
“Simple, clear purpose and principles give rise to complex and intelligent behavior. Complex rules and regulations give rise to simple stupid behavior.”
- Jim Donehey, former CIO of Capital One used four rules to help ensure everyone was working toward the same shared goals:
 - **Always align IT with the activities of the business**
 - **Use good economic judgment**
 - **Be flexible**
 - **Have empathy for the other in the organization**

Take a Break

The Big Picture

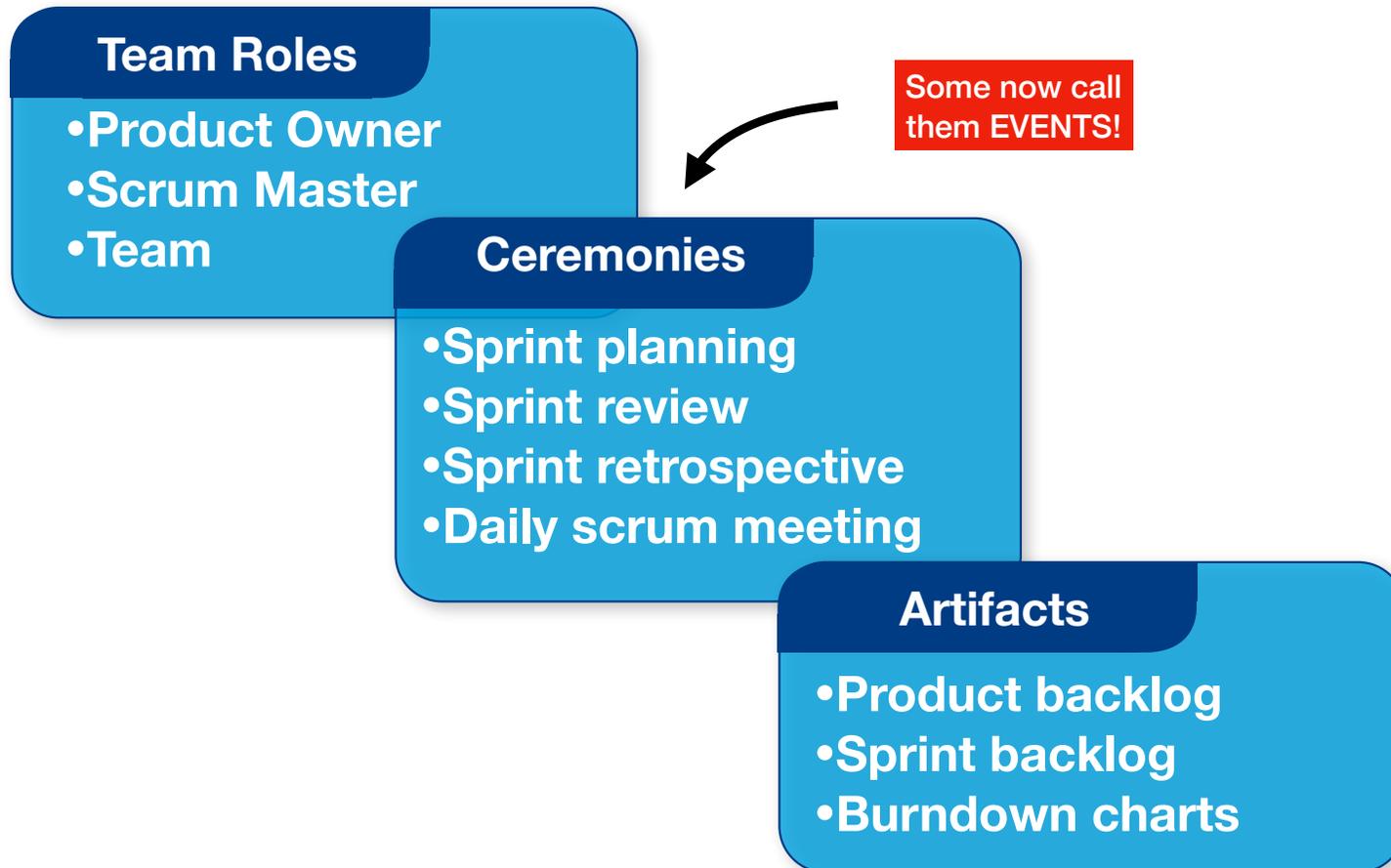


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Scrum Details

Scrum Framework



Scrum Framework

Team Roles

- Product Owner
- Scrum Master
- Team

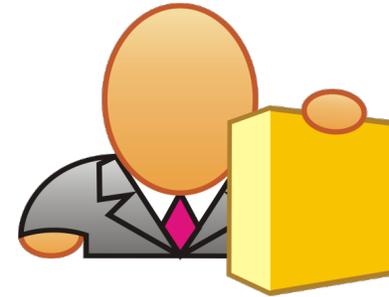
Ceremonies

- Sprint planning
- Sprint review
- Sprint retrospective
- Daily scrum meeting

Artifacts

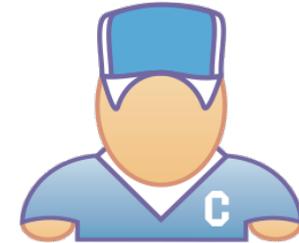
- Product backlog
- Sprint backlog
- Burndown charts

Product Owner



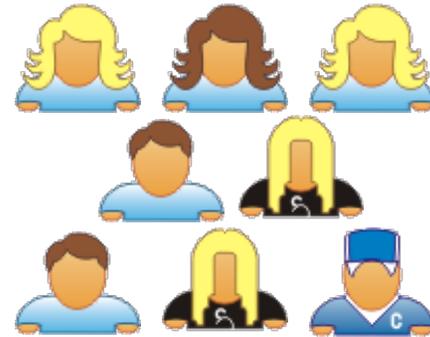
- Define the features of the product
- Decide on release date and content
- Be responsible for the profitability of the product (ROI)
- Prioritize features according to market value
- Adjust features and priority every iteration, as needed
- Accept or reject work results

The Scrum Master



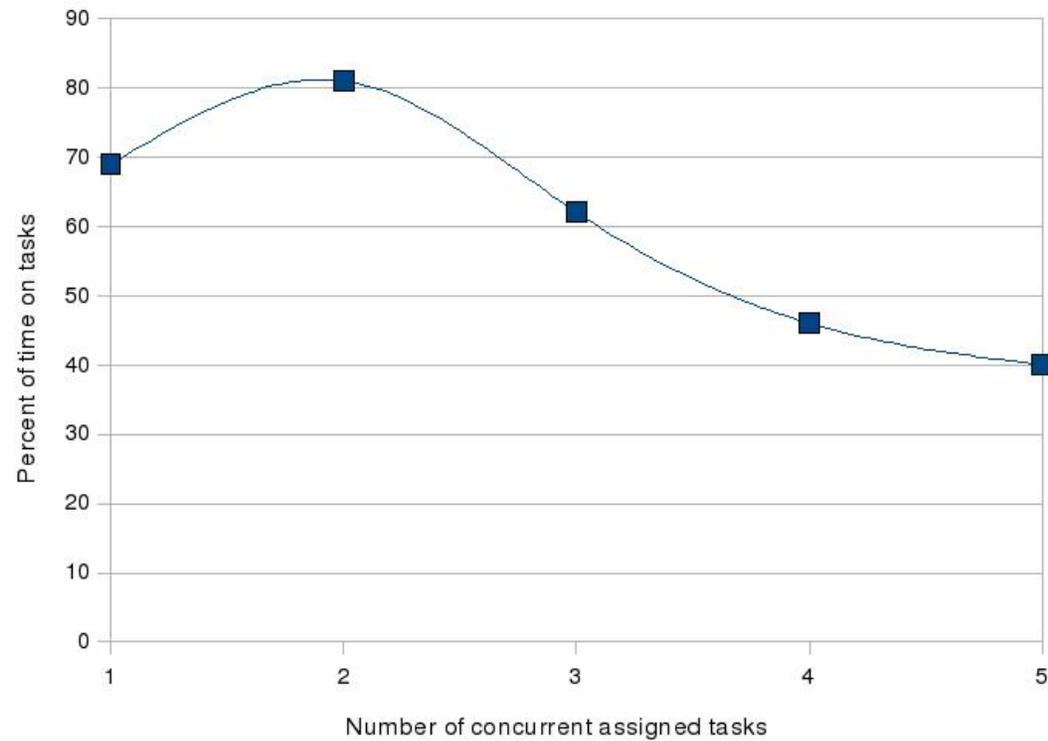
- Represents management to the project
- Responsible for enacting Scrum values and practices
- Removes impediments
- Ensure that the team is fully functional and productive
- Enable close cooperation across all roles and functions
- Shield the team from external interferences
- The ScrumMaster differs from a Project Manager in that he does not exercise command and control

The Team



- Typically 5-9 people
- Cross-functional:
 - Programmers, testers, user experience designers, etc.
- Members should be full-time (no multi-tasking!)
 - May be exceptions (e.g., database administrator)
- Teams are self-organizing
 - Ideally, no titles but rarely a possibility
- Membership should change only between sprints

The Myth of Multitasking



from a 1990's [Harvard Study](#) by Steven C. Wheelwright and Kim B. Clark

Testing Multitasking

1. Take paper and pen and prepare to write down the following in three columns HORIZONTALLY.

A a 1 THEN
B b 2
C c 3
-----continue until Z, z and 26-----
Z z 26

2. Everybody turns on stop watch using their smart phone and begin
3. When done, record your time.

4. Reset stop watch and repeat the same exercise, BUT this time go VERTICALLY.
Complete capital A to Z first, then go for a-z, and then 1-26.
5. When done, record your time.

Was There a Difference?

Scrum Framework

Team Roles

- Product Owner
- Scrum Master
- Team

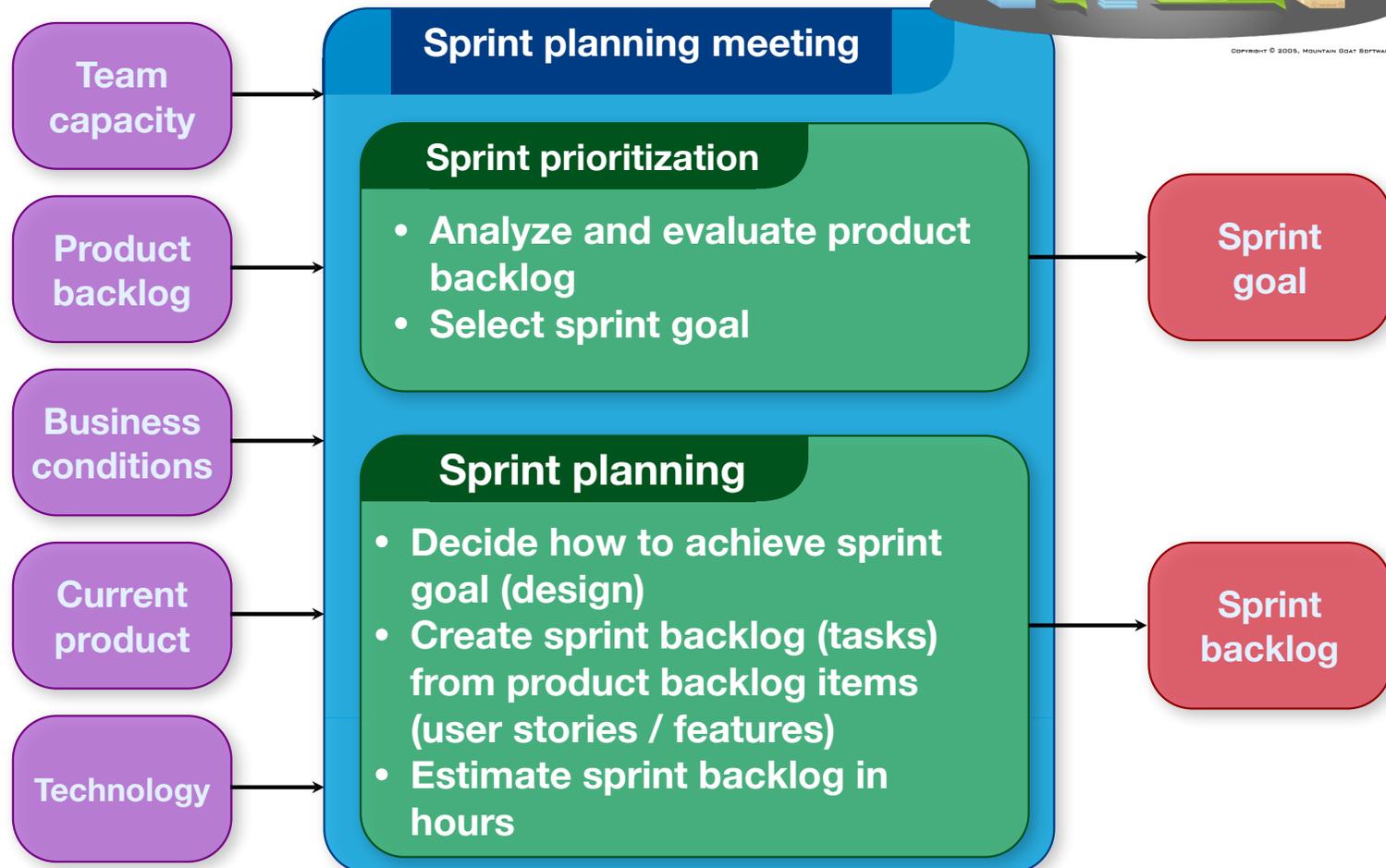
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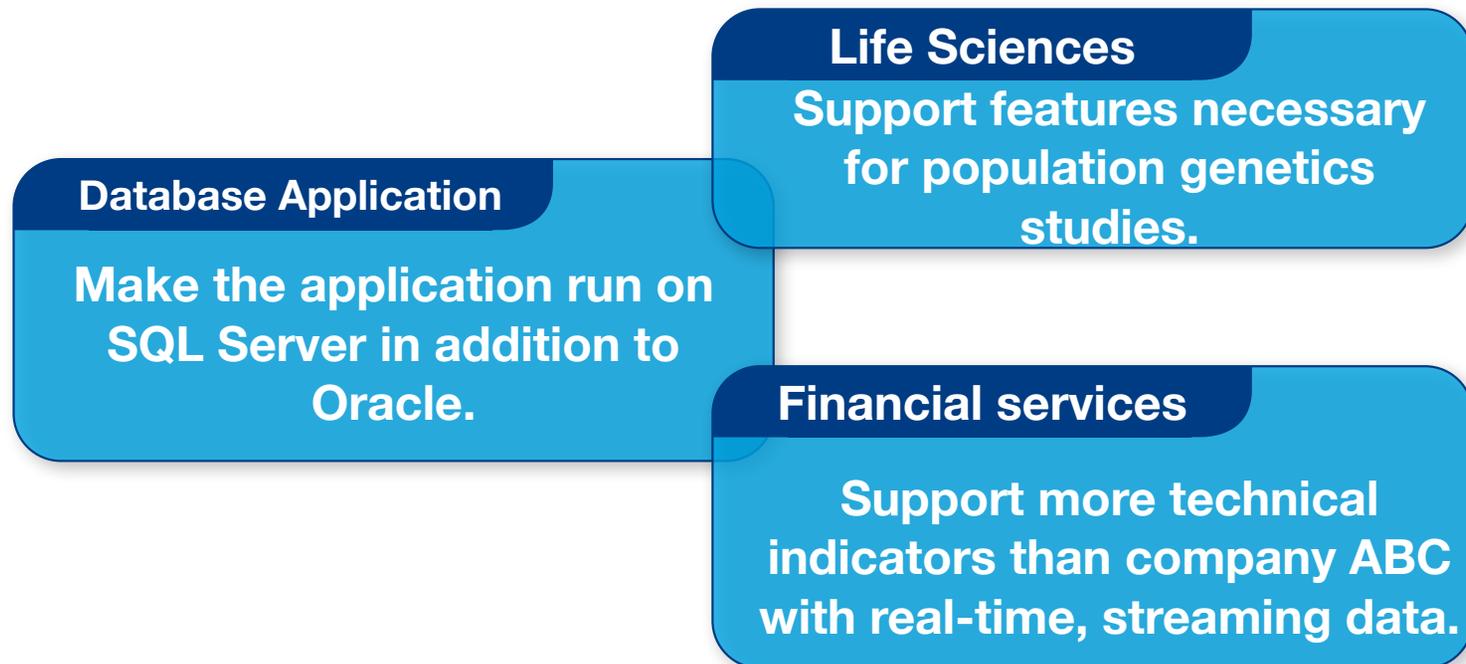
- Product backlog
- Sprint backlog
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Sprint Planning



The Sprint Goal

- A short statement of what the work will be focused on during the sprint



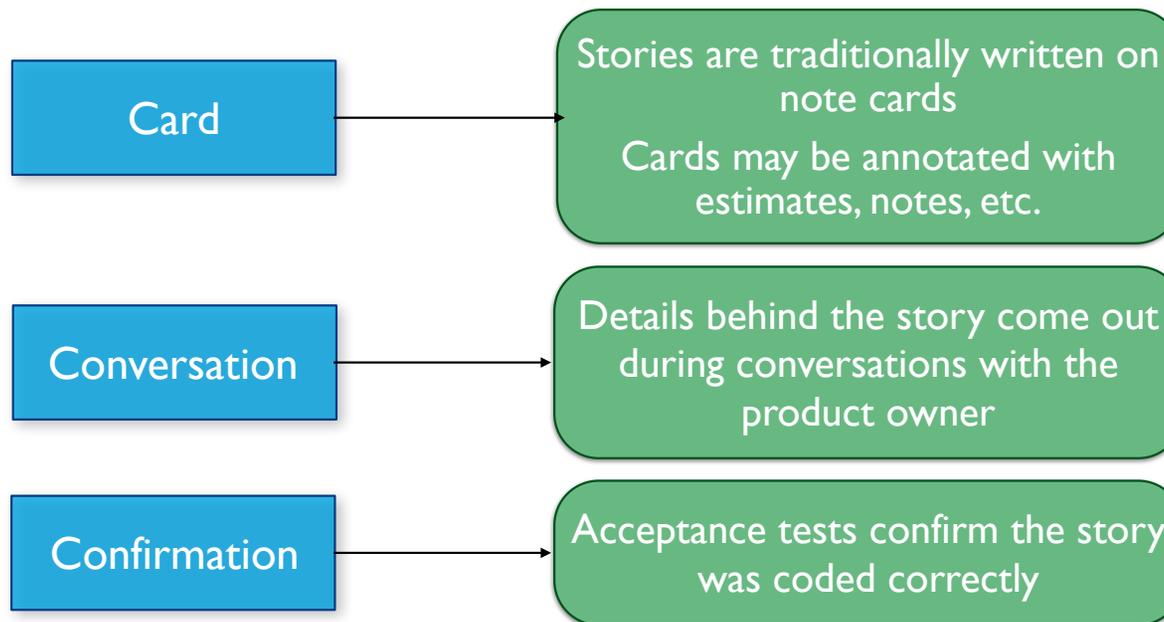
User Stories

Who
What
Why

Feature #1 - Publish Trainings	
Who	As a manager
What	I want to publish trainings
Why	In order to make them available to customers

What is a User Story

A user story describes functionality that will be valuable to either a user or purchaser of a system or software*

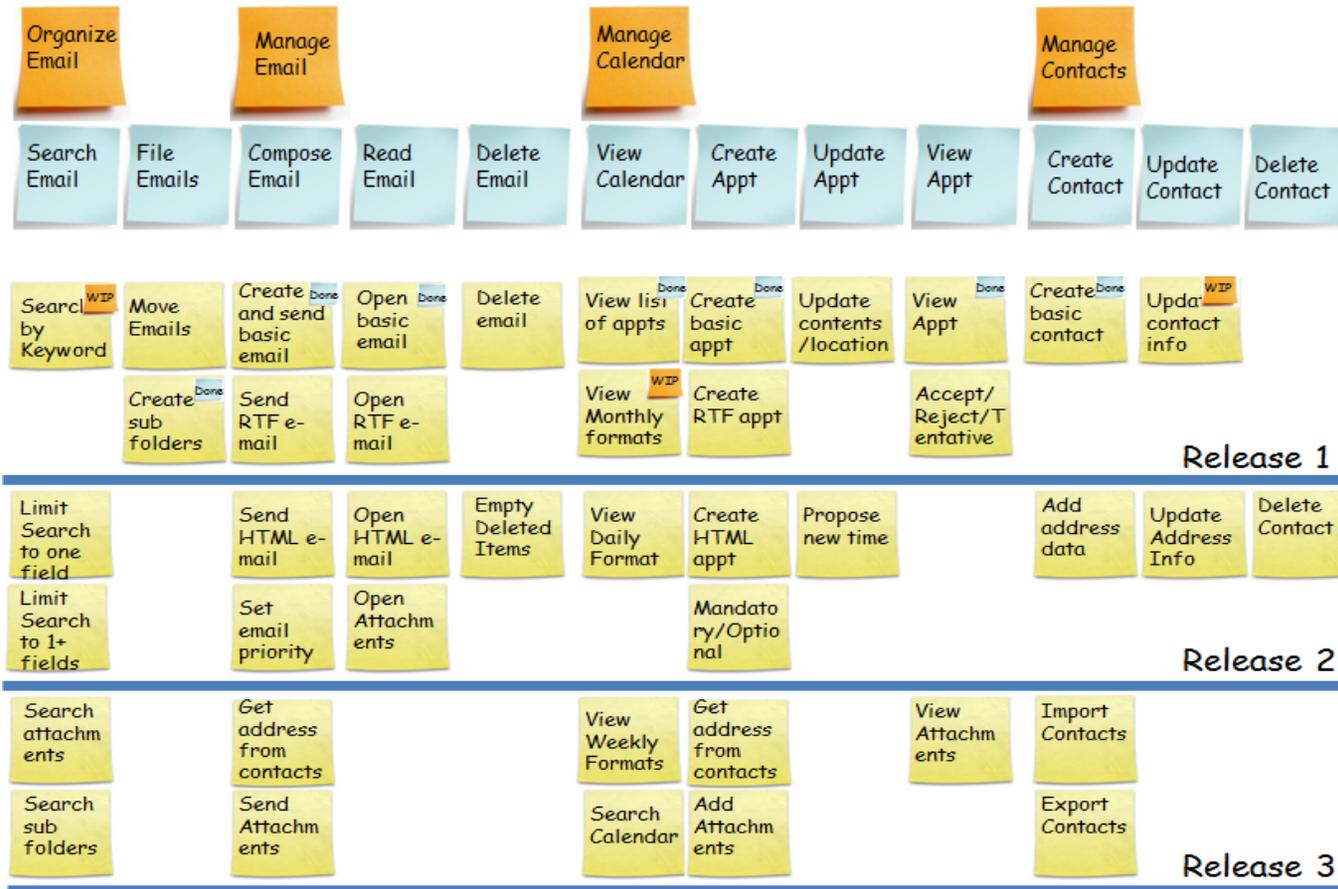


*Mike Cohn, [User Stories Applied](#)

Ron Jeffries <http://xprogramming.com/articles/expcardconversationconfirmation/>

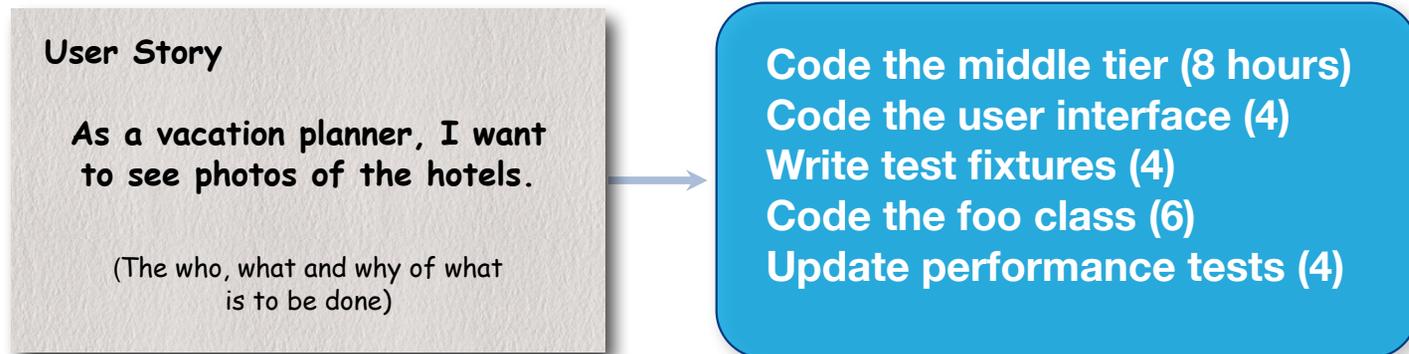
Requirements Collection / User Stories

- “Big Stories” to Small Stories



Sprint Planning

- Team selects User Stories from the product backlog they can **commit to completing**
- Sprint backlog is created
 - Tasks are identified and each is estimated (1-16 hours)
 - Done Collaboratively, not alone by the Scrum Master/Product Owner
- High-level design is considered

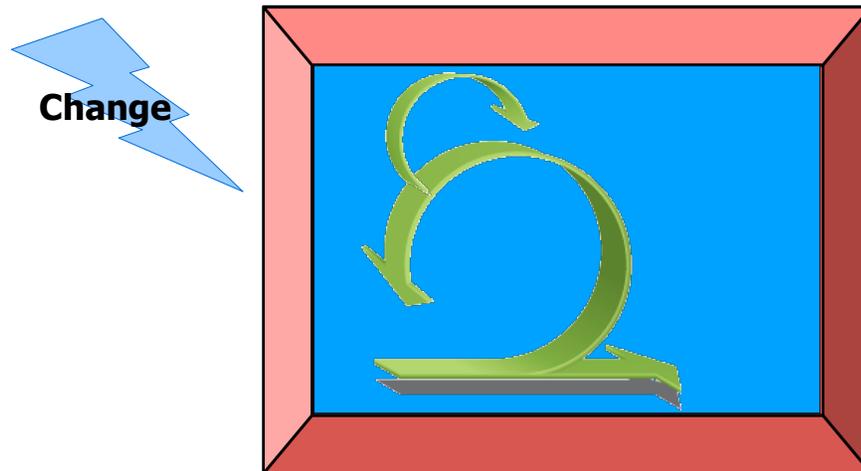


Sprints



- Scrum projects make progress in a series of “sprints”
- Typical duration is 2–4 weeks or a calendar month at most
- A constant duration leads to a better rhythm
- Product is designed, coded, and tested during the sprint

No changes during a sprint



- Plan sprint durations around how long you can commit to keeping change out of the sprint

The Daily Scrum



- Parameters
 - Daily
 - 15-minutes
 - Stand-up
- Not for problem solving
 - Whole world is invited
 - Only team members, ScrumMaster, product owner, can talk
- Helps avoid other unnecessary meetings



Everyone Answers Three Questions

1

What did you do yesterday?

2

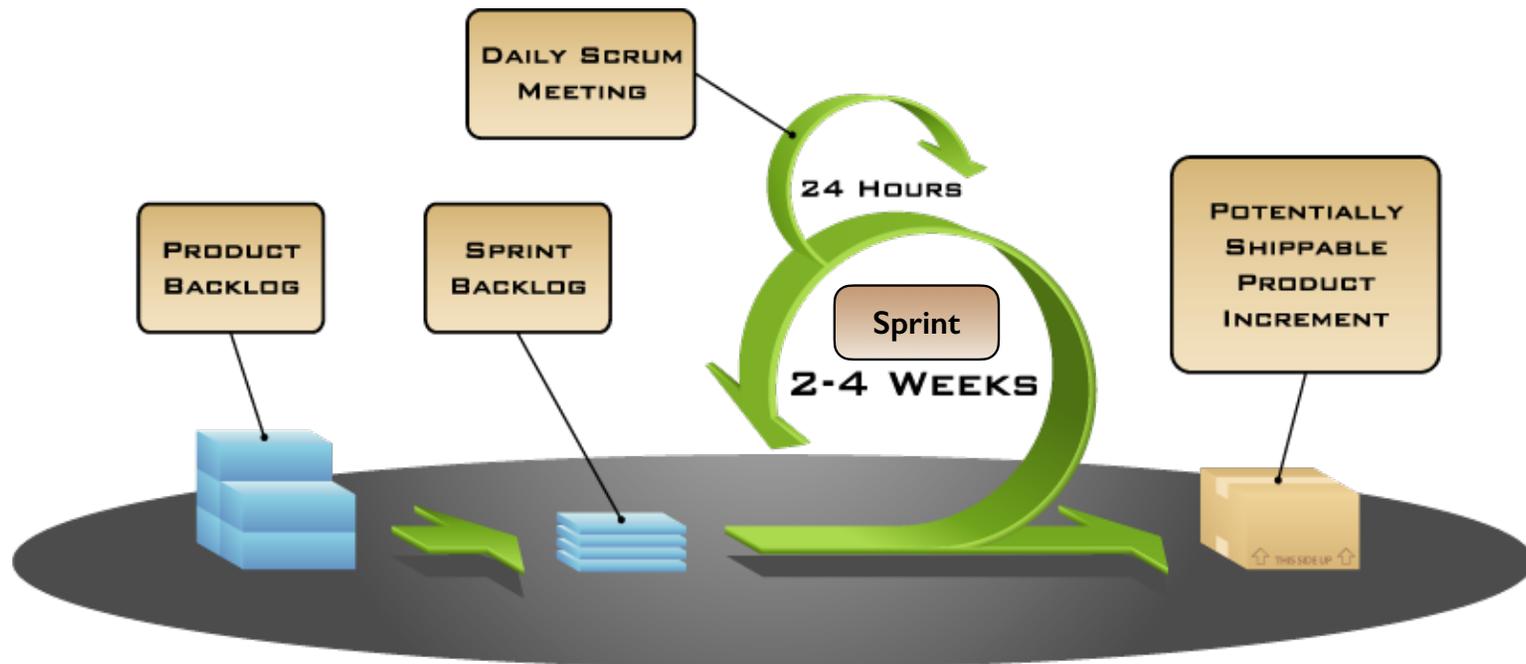
What will you do today?

3

Is anything in your way?

- These are *not* status for the ScrumMaster
- They are commitments in front of peers
- Transparency is key!

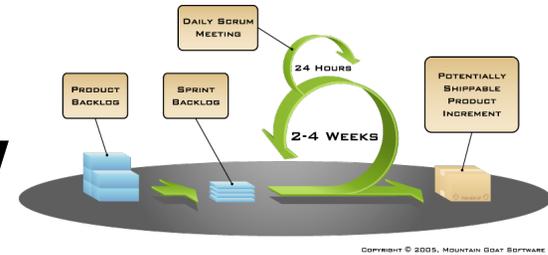
The Big Picture



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Image available at www.mountaingoatsoftware.com/scrum

The Sprint Review



- Invite the world
- Whole team participates
- Informal
 - 2-hour prep time rule
 - No slides
- Team presents what it accomplished during the sprint
- Typically takes the form of a demo of new features or underlying architecture



Sprint Retrospective

- Periodically take a look at what is and is not working - Inspect and adapt!
- Typically 15–30 minutes
- Done after every sprint
- Whole team participates
 - ScrumMaster, Product owner, Team
 - Possibly customers and others

Start / Stop / Continue

- Whole team gathers and discusses what they'd like to:

Start doing

Stop doing

Continue doing

**This is just one
of many ways to
do a sprint
retrospective.**

Scrum Framework

Team Roles

- Product Owner
- Scrum Master
- Team

Ceremonies

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- Sprint retrospective
- Daily scrum meeting

Artifacts

- Product backlog
- Sprint backlog
- Burndown charts

Product Backlog

This is the product backlog



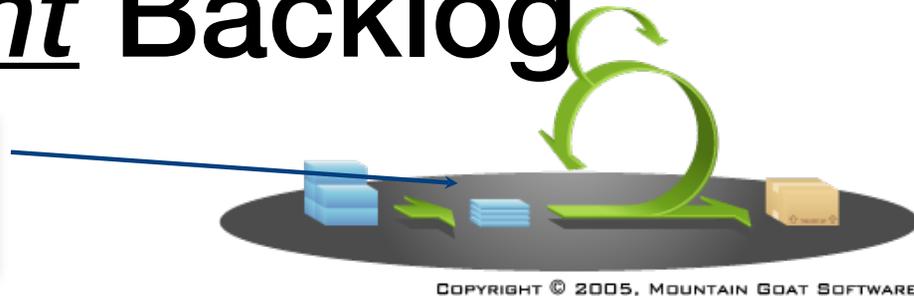
- The requirements
- A list of all desired work on the project
- Ideally expressed such that each item has value to the users or customers of the product
- Prioritized by the product owner
- Reprioritized at the start of each sprint

A Sample Product Backlog

Backlog item	Estimate
Allow a guest to make a reservation	3
As a guest, I want to cancel a reservation.	5
As a guest, I want to change the dates of a reservation.	3
As a hotel employee, I can run RevPAR reports (revenue-per-available-room)	8
Improve exception handling	8
...	13
...	34

Sprint Backlog

This is the
sprint backlog



- One or more Product Backlog items make up the Sprint Backlog.
- The work is decomposed into tasks and hours.
- If work is unclear, define a sprint backlog item with a larger amount of time and break it down later.
- Individuals sign up for work - work is never assigned.
- Estimated work remaining is updated daily as more becomes known.
- Any team member can add, delete or change the sprint backlog.

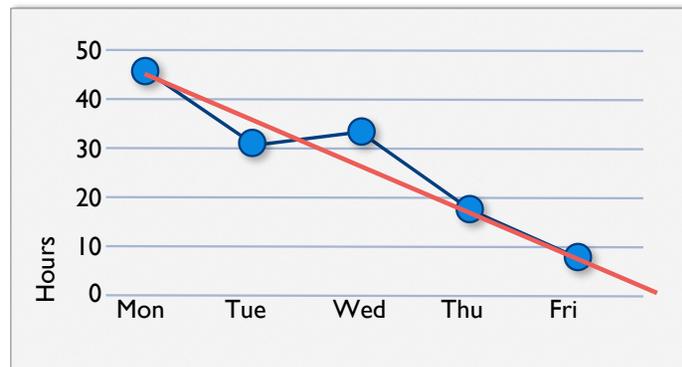
A Sprint Backlog

Tasks	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri
Code the user interface	8	4	8		
Code the middle tier	16	12	10	4	
Test the middle tier	8	16	16	11	8
Write online help	12				
Write the foo class	8	8	8	8	8
Add error logging			8	4	

Burndown Example

Tasks	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri
Code the user interface	8	4	8		
Code the middle tier	16	12	10	7	
Test the middle tier	8	16	16	11	8
Write online help	12				
	44	32	34	18	8

Ideal 



Review / Take Aways

Review / Take Aways

- Agile is a *philosophy* - a way of BEING Agile
- Scrum is a framework, method or process - a way of DOING Agile
- We defer to BEING Agile when we implement a framework, process or method, process

Review / Take Aways

- A leader is strong in both results focus and in social skills - Mission First, People Always
- Leaders like Generative Rules
- Remember to define ready and done
- Leader/friends don't let friends "multi-task"

Review / Take Aways

- Process is not bad, it just must be subservient to Agile Principles
- Scrum teams do a little of everything all the time
- We deliver functionality, not products - Bite size chunks vs. a Big Bang

Review / Take Aways

- The Product Owner is the ultimate authority in form, function and delivery
- The Scrum Master is assures we are BEING Agile and helps the team move forward
- The team is responsible and self organizing - we all may have roles, but in the end, we are a team of leaders

Review / Take Aways

- User Stories define functionality and promote discussion
- It is utter arrogance to try to predict the future - Cone of Uncertainty
- We first T-Shirt size and only define tasks and time at Sprint Planning

Review / Take Aways

- No Heroics! Sprints provide a sustainable cadence for EVERYONE.
- Transparency is paramount (Remember George Bernard Shaw)
- Inspect and Adapt!

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2020 Pittsburgh PMI - PittAgile Gathering

PittAgileDay.com

Sign Up at:

<https://pittsburghpmi.org/calendar?eventId=5939>

Why do this?

Reasons for Adopting Agile Success Rates

April 1, 2018

PROJECT SUCCESS RATES AGILE VS WATERFALL



WWW.VITALITYCHICAGO.COM

SOURCE: STANDISH GROUP CHAOS STUDIES 2013-2017

<https://vitalitychicago.com/blog/agile-projects-are-more-successful-traditional-projects/>

Bottom Line

- Agile projects are 2X more likely to succeed
- Agile projects are 1/3 less likely to fail than waterfall projects

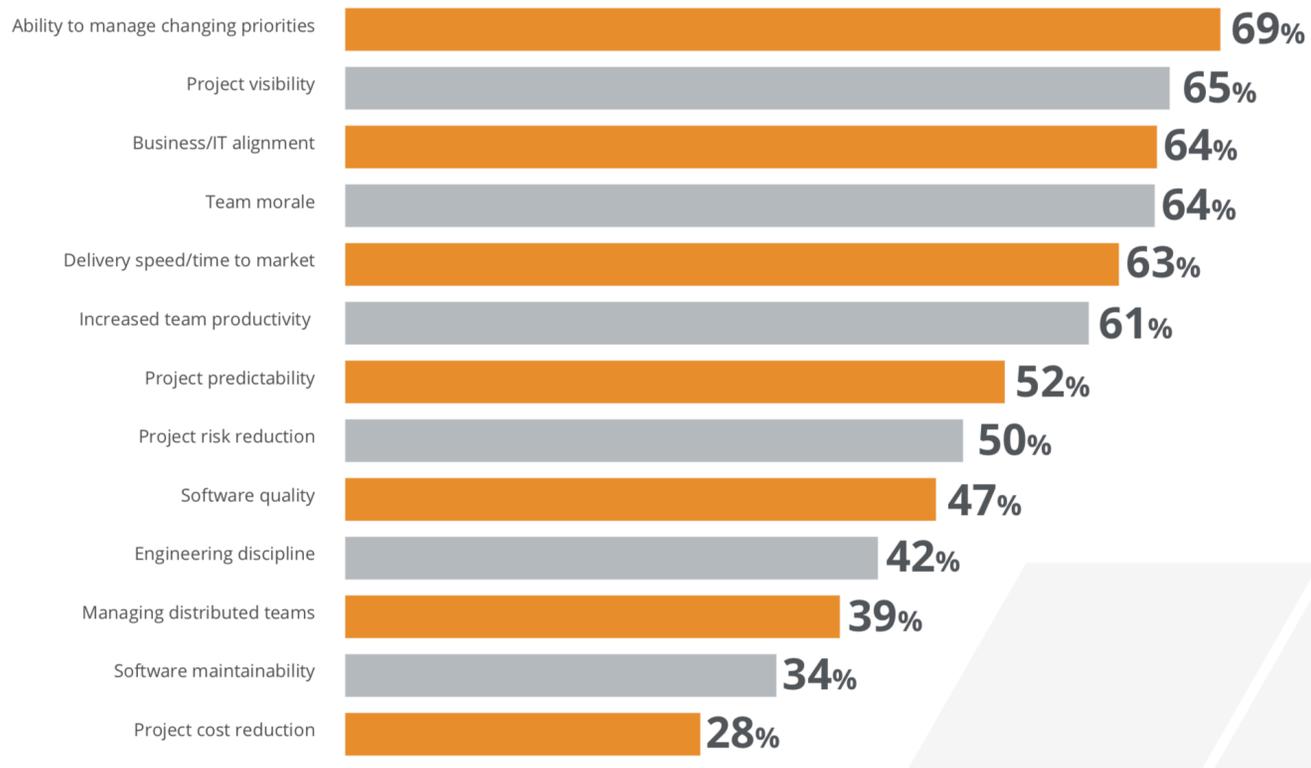
The Standish Group has conducted surveys of IT project success and failure rates every 2 years since 1994.

Reasons for Adopting Agile Shifts in Industry Attitudes

Changes from 2018 to 2019

- Less about increasing productivity (51% compared to 55%)
- More about improving team morale (34% compared to 28%)
- Less about reducing project risk (28% compared to 37%)
- More about reducing project costs (41% compared to 24%)

Benefits of Adopting Agile



Source: 13th-annual-state-of-agile-report.pdf - 2019 - <https://www.stateofagile.com/#ufh-c-473508-state-of-agile-report>

Scrum has been used for:

- Commercial software
- In-house development
- Contract development
- Fixed-price projects
- Financial applications
- ISO 9001-certified applications
- Embedded systems
- 24x7 systems with
99.999% uptime requirements
- The Joint Strike Fighter
- HR improvement projects
- Sales and Marketing projects
- Training and Education
- Video game development
- FDA-approved, life-critical systems
- Satellite-control software
- Websites
- Mobile phones
- Network switching applications
- ISV applications
- Some of the largest applications in use

Scrum Has Been Used By

- Microsoft
- Yahoo
- Google
- Electronic Arts
- High Moon Studios
- Lockheed Martin
- Philips
- Siemens
- Capital One
- BBC
- Intuit
- Nielsen Media
- First American Real Estate
- BMC Software
- Ipswitch
- John Deere
- Nokia
- Lexis Nexis
- Sabre
- Salesforce.com
- Time Warner
- Turner Broadcasting
- Oce

Agile Principles in Action

The Troubled HH60W Program

“The team had a moment whether we decided we’re all in, and we’re going to do whatever it takes,” Roper tells Aviation Week. “We’re going to follow the rules, but we’re going to slim them down to the minimum set necessary to keep us focused on delivering on time.”

Will Roper, Air Force acquisition executive



The “old school” methods shaved 4 months from the deployment test program.

Bonus Slides

6

Stories emphasize the user's goals not the system's attributes.

What are we building?

1. The product shall have a gas engine.
2. The product shall have four wheels.
 - 2.1. The product shall have a rubber tire mounted to each wheel.
3. The product shall have a steering wheel.
4. The product shall have a steel body.

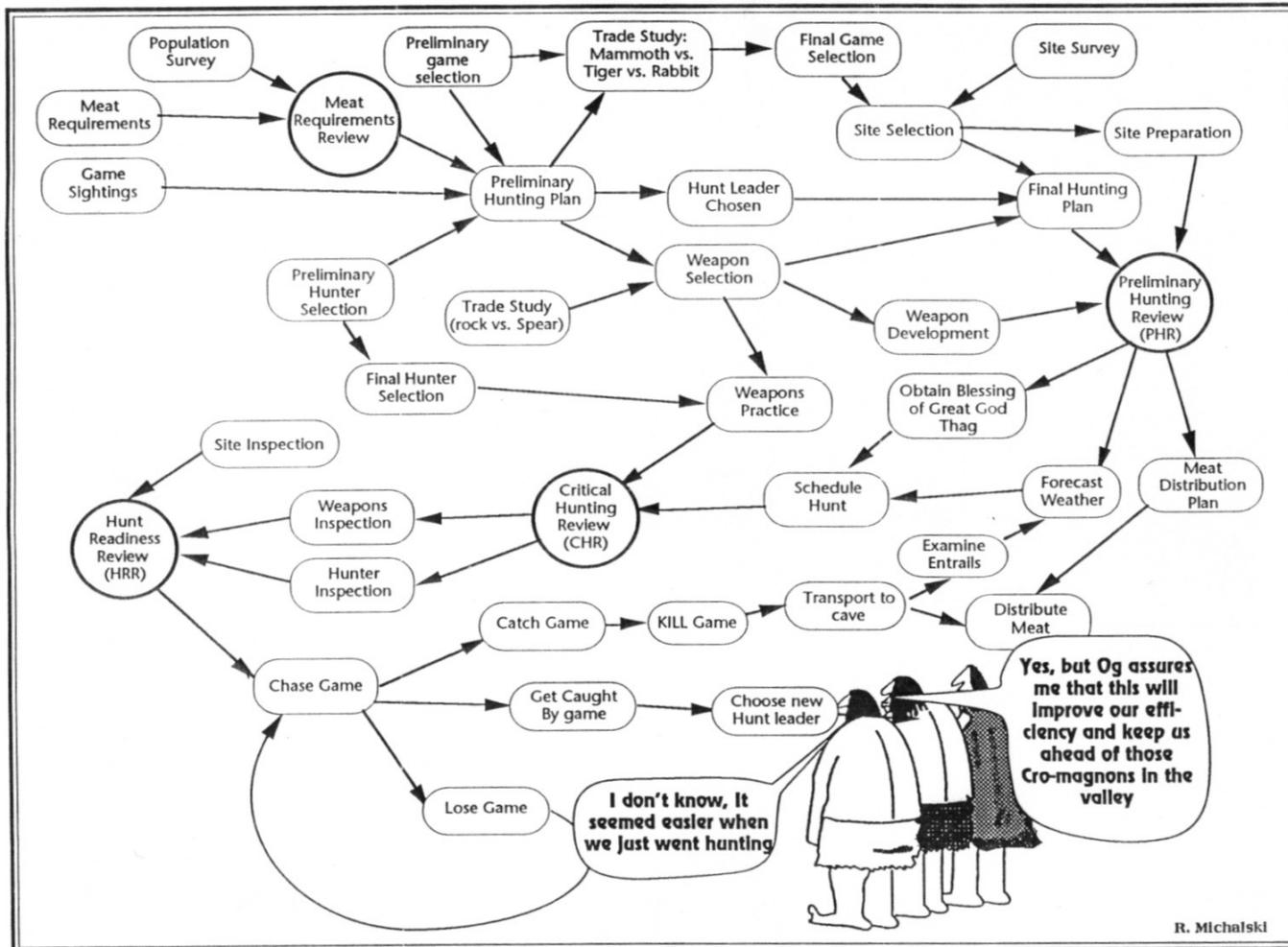
Source: Adapted from *The Inmates are Running the Asylum* by Alan Cooper (1999).



Example Task Board

Story	To Do	In Process	To Verify	Done
As a user, I... 8 points	Code the... 9 Code the... 2 Test the... 8 Code the... 8 Test the... 4	Code the... DC 4 Test the... SC 8	Test the... SC 6	Code the... DC 8 Test the... SC 8 Test the... SC 8 Test the... SC 6
As a user, I... 5 points	Code the... 8 Code the... 4 Test the... 8 Code the... 6	Code the... DC 8		Test the... SC 8 Test the... SC 8 Test the... SC 6

Reproduced from <http://www.mountaingoatsoftware.com/agile/scrum/task-boards>



• Why the Neanderthals became extinct •