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AGILE

S C R U M
c o a c h

For development teams that are in need
of a structural improvement of productivity

Is the waste of resources in your development team a thorn in your flesh? Are you looking for ways to manage the growing complexity of multidisciplinary development projects? The daily hectic demands a new aproach to improve the adaptivity and effectivity of your team.
*Then the time is right to consider moving over to the Agile Scrum project management technique. The Scrum coach of **I**mprovemen**T** is able to help you with a smooth and swift introduction!*

What is Scrum?
It is a proven fact that small, cross-functional and autonomous teams are often much more productive than large teams that are kept on a tight rein. This insight has been an important driver for the inception of *Scrum*, an Agile method for projectmanagement.

In contrast with the traditional way of working, Scrum is well prepared for the often hectic and chaotic context in which complex, software-intensive systems are produced. The adaptive and empirical approach of Scrum is a fundamental deviation from the conventional 'waterfall method' of system development.

How does a Scrum project look like?
The driver of every Scrum project is a prioritized list of product requirements, the *product backlog*. This list is under supervision of the customer or its representitive, the *product owner*.

Scrum prescribes short iterations, or *sprints*, each with an explicit goal: delivery of a working part of the product. At the beginning of each sprint the most important items on the product backlog are selected. These are elaborated on a *sprint backlog,* which is the fundament of the *sprint estimation* and *planning*.

A remarkable phenomenon is that the team itself will subdivide the work, including planning and estimation. Each day of the sprint starts with a short *scrum meeting*. The progress of the team is kept in a so-called *burn-down chart*.

At the end of a sprint, the results are presented and assessed in a *sprint review meeting*. Each sprint is rounded off with a *retrospective*: an open team discussion on what went well in the last sprint and what are attention points for improvement.
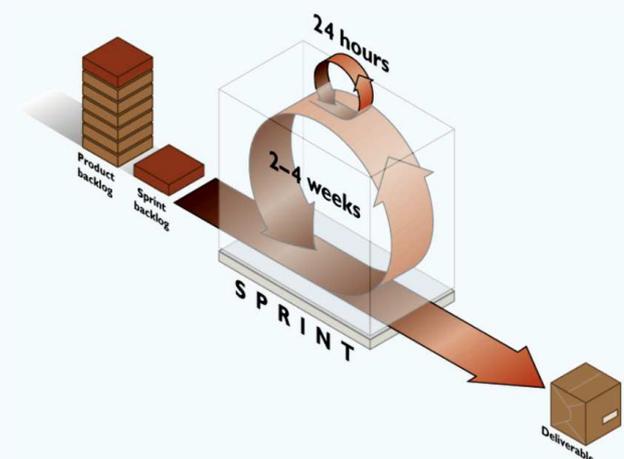
feature-driven & time-boxed product realisation process

What about the Scrum Roles?

Scrum is not based on traditional, hierarchical roles. Basically, there are only three roles:

The *Scrum Team* is a disciplined and self-empowered team, dedicated to deliver what is agreed upon at the beginning of the sprint.

Scrum teams are supported by a mentor and moderator, the *Scrum Master*. His/her role is to chair the meetings, recording of the team progression, protection of the team against interruption and the removal of obstacles and excuses, summarized as *impediments*.

Another essential role that determines the success of Scrum is that of the *Product Owner*. The Product Owner represents the customer and end-user, and is responsible for the content and the prioritization of all features on the Product Backlog.

What is the advantage of Scrum?

In a traditional evironment, the constantly changing requirements are often responsible for agitation wthin the team. Scrum deals with this source of waste in a radical way: during a sprint the team will not be disturbed. Only the product backlog is prone to change: new items are added, priorities change, items are no longer relevant or become obsolete. Hence, all internal and external disturbances are catched by the product backlog, to become effective within the next sprint.
The short horizon of a sprint (2 to 4 weeks) provides early visibility and mitigation of risks. At the same time, teammembers will increase their ability to better estimate tasks, leading to a realistic and reliable planning.

Scrum is in fact a change-driven process: uncertainty and unforeseen modification of product requirements are assumed to be the natural state, and are no longer a source of disturbance and task switching. This is a chief reason why Scrum will provide a significant increase of effectivity and productivity.

With Scrum you will be able to come to grips with complex development projects. In combination with the customer-driven product backlog, the sprint reviews and retrospectives are powerful tools for feedback, learning and adjustment. Functionality, quality, budget and release dates are concrete, transparent, adaptable and verifiable.

Who is the Scrum Coach?

The role of Scrum Coach is fulfilled by Erik Philippus, founder of **I**mprovemen**T** BV, member of the Agile/Scrum Alliance and Certified Scrum Master/Practitioner™.

What is the task of the Scrum coach?

In addition to the full facilitation of the Scrum work proces within the team(s), the Scrum coach will also act as a mentor for the whole organization to acquire the requested 'agility'.

The Scrum coach will function as the 'lubricant' between de Scrum team and the (possibly non-Agile) environment. He will stimulate team-members to take commitment and to organize their own work. Using the principle of 'learning on the job', the Scrum coach will gradually transfer tasks to your own 'candidate' Scrum master(s). Furthermore, the Scrum coach will provide hands-on support for the Product Owner(s) to produce appropriate user stories that will effectively help to drive the sprints.

The Scrum coach can also take care of the introduction of Lean principles and Agile product and project management in demanding, multidisciplinary organizations.

What is the investment?

The rate of the Scrum coach is € 115,- per hour, VAT and travel expenses not included. If applicable, other services from the portfolio of **I**mprovemen**T** will be added to the job responsibilities of the Scrum coach at no additional cost.

Are you interested?

Please contact **I**mprovemen**T** for more information, or make an appointment for an introductory and exploratory conversation.

At your service,
Erik Philippus

IMPROVEMEN**T** BV
Agile Architecting