

SCRUM & Software Development

WHAT IS SCRUM?

Scrum is a simple project management framework which enables you to closely align your software development efforts with your company's evolving priorities.

Over thousands of projects, Scrum has proven to be a highly productive approach to software development.

Scrum helps reduce risk and ensures that the business guides development efforts at all times.

Scrum is a value-driven process and not plan-driven like many traditional software development processes.

The Scrum approach was defined in the mid 1990's and is being used in companies ranging from Google, Nokia BBC and NASA to small web development teams.

Scrum is part of the Agile software movement – promoting light and appropriate software development methods.

WHY USE SCRUM?

Scrum increases productivity by bringing rigour, accountability and business alignment to your software development effort.

There are many examples where Scrum has increased productivity by over 200% - by focusing on eliminating waste, by bringing developers and their customers closer together, by encouraging team working and by fostering the adoption of good engineering practises.

The Scrum framework also reduces risk and builds a more transparent and trusting relationship between software development team and client:

Scrum allows clients to change their mind and evolve their requirements during the development process.

HOW DOES SCRUM WORK?

Scrum's simple project management framework ensures that a motivated team is always working on the client's most important features.

Frequent, high-bandwidth feedback cycles between team and client, enable the team to adapt to the changes in requirements.

- Scrum teams work in iterations of between one and four weeks.
- Each iteration delivers 'deployable' code – based on rigorous quality assurance.
- The business determines what features are developed, each iteration ensuring they maximise project ROI
- All work is taken off a single list of remaining work, prioritised by business value and easily visible and understood by stakeholders.

HOW IS SCRUM IMPLEMENTED?

Scrum is simple in concept, however implementation is challenging.

The Scrum processes require changes in behaviour and organisation that need to be managed by the business.

The simple Scrum practises enable your team to tap into fundamental Lean* principles.

Scrum embraces some fundamental truths underlying software development;

- Software development is too complex to be accurately anticipated – therefore an adaptive management process is necessary.
- Enabling a team of empowered, motivated individuals to truly understand the client's needs is the best way to build the right software.
- Software development is essentially a human endeavour - underlying principles of transparency, openness and visibility build trust and understanding – enabling teams to become highly productive.
- Creating software is a process of discovery and creativity – not construction i.e. it's liable to change during the process.

**Lean processes were first developed by Toyota and are now used in many industries – the principles are equally relevant in software development.*

WHAT ARE SCRUM'S BENEFITS?

Quality

Scrum is based on good engineering practise and targets a high quality threshold of 'deployable code' every iteration. This rigorous focus on quality ensures that the project is kept on track and risk reduced.

Cost

The Scrum framework is lightweight and quick to adopt. Clients can see benefits soon after starting with the process.

With documented productivity gains of over 200% the Scrum framework will reduce your development costs significantly

Speed of Development

Scrum focuses on continually delivering the features with the highest business value. Clients often start to receive fully tested code within weeks of the project start.

Predictability of Delivery

By delivering every week the client can plan how to deploy the solution. This transparency and predictability has significant business benefits.

HOW CAN LIEMUR HELP?

Liemur has extensive experience of dealing with the challenges of managing the organisational changes associated with moving to Scrum and will work with you and your teams to ensure that the new practises become an embedded and durable way of working.

We focus on blending the Scrum processes into your existing business and process realities. Our light touch coaching approach aims to build the capability within your organisation to succeed with Scrum after we have left.

Our clients have *never* experienced a drop in productivity whilst adopting Scrum. We will *not* take your teams offline for days whilst they learn the process – you will see the benefits quickly.

Our consultants have worked on projects ranging in size from European roll-outs to teams of five people.

Whilst Scrum is a very simple framework the main value we add is in helping you adapt it to the realities of your business, based on our years of experience with similar projects.

The simple Scrum practises tap into deeper Lean principles – we understand and use those principles to inform the way in which we adapt the process.

The bottom line is that Liemur will make Scrum work for you and your business.

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