[Agile](#) / Standups

Stand-ups for agile teams

Learn how stand-ups help uncover blockers and strenthen your agile team

BY DAN RADIGAN

> Stand-ups are one of the fundamental parts of agile development, and it's often the most misunderstood. Let's be real: stand-ups by themselves don't make your team agile. They aren't about inflating egos or justifying job descriptions. They aren't a time to plan; Sprint planning is for planning. They also aren't the only time to mention blockers. If you're stuck, ask for help!

In this article, we'll talk about how to effectively manage blockers as well as offer other great tips and tricks we use at Atlassian. We want to help you make your stand-ups (and your overall

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In many sports like (American) football and rugby, the team huddles before each play. The huddle is strategic: it keeps the team informed, connected, and calibrated throughout the game. For software teams, the stand-up is like the team's huddle. It's even commonly known as the daily scrum, and reinforces "we" to keep everyone aware of the team's landscape and progress.

> **For software teams, a stand-up is like a sports team's huddle.**

Said another way, a stand-up is a daily meeting that involves the core team: product owners, developers, and the scrum master. This meeting's flavor is unique to each team, but at Atlassian we use three simple questions to generate structure:
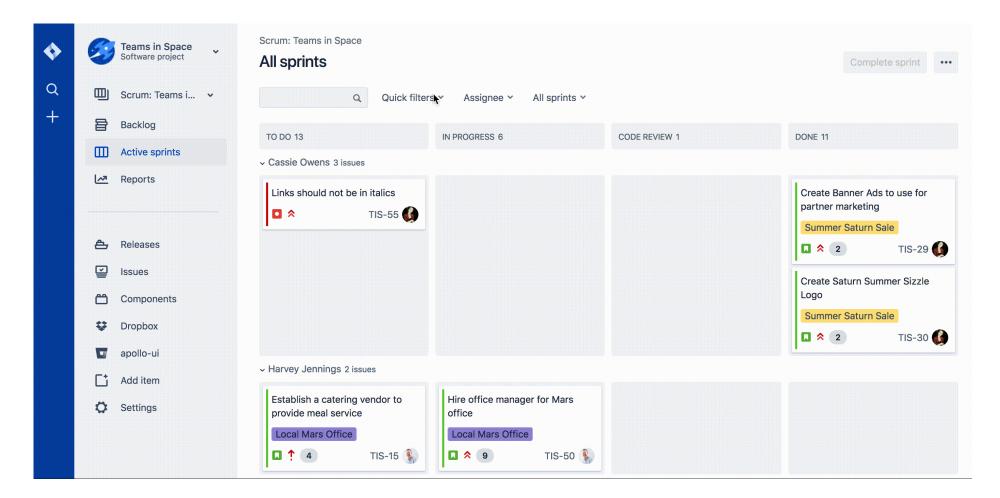
- What did I work on yesterday?

- What am I working on today?

- What issues are blocking me?

These questions highlight progress and help flag team blockers. Also, it strengthens the team when everyone shares the progress they're contributing to the team. The daily reinforcement of sharing individual successes and plans keeps everyone excited about the team's overall contribution to the organization.

→

use Jira boards to keep on top of their projects with quick filters. Two great filters that can be used together to help prepare for stand-up are "only my issues" and "recently updated." When these two filters are used together, they show the issues assigned to you and that have been updated in the last day.

PRO TIP

→

be:

```
assignee = currentuser() or participants in (currentuser())
```

Stand-ups at Atlassian

Stand-ups are not a one-size-fits-all meeting. At Atlassian, each team has a personalized stand-up to keep everyone involved and engaged. No two are exactly alike.

Let's dig into what makes a great stand-up, and check out some of our examples.

1   **Choose a time that works for everyone** – At Atlassian, most stand-ups for co-located teams happen between 9 and 10 a.m. It gives everyone time to get context for the day and doesn't require everyone to be an early riser on the team. For teams spread across different geographies, choose a time that works for all people. For example, the Jira Service Desk team is spread between San Francisco and Sydney. Their stand-up is at 3:30 p.m. San Francisco time. Sure, an afternoon stand-up is a bit non-conventional, but it's a great way to stay in touch with colleagues across the globe in Sydney.

2   **Keep stand-up efficient** – Many teams at Atlassian informally time their stand-ups to keep everyone focused and to keep the stand-up efficient. Rotate who keeps time to make sure

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3   **Play catch** – The Jira team tosses a beachball between team members to keep everyone engaged. No one can toss the ball to someone next to them or to someone who has already gone. No zoning out! If you haven't tried the technique, it's a great way to keep everyone involved.

4   **Make the stand-up a part of the team's retrospective** – Stand-up s are part of many agile cultures, but it doesn't mean that the team can't discuss the effectiveness of stand-ups in retrospectives. Some Atlassian teams meet daily. Others meet three times a week. The Jira team regularly discusses how to make stand-ups better for the team in retrospectives. If the team isn't finding value in a stand-up, discuss why. Make some changes! Stand-ups are agile too!

> PRO TIP
>
> Some Atlassian teams integrate Crontabs, Pandora, and the team's Jira wallboard. Crontabs loads Pandora (and the team's favorite music) 15 seconds before the stand-up to get everyone's attention and to start on time. The team's wallboard highlights any blocked issues the team needs to focus in on for the day.
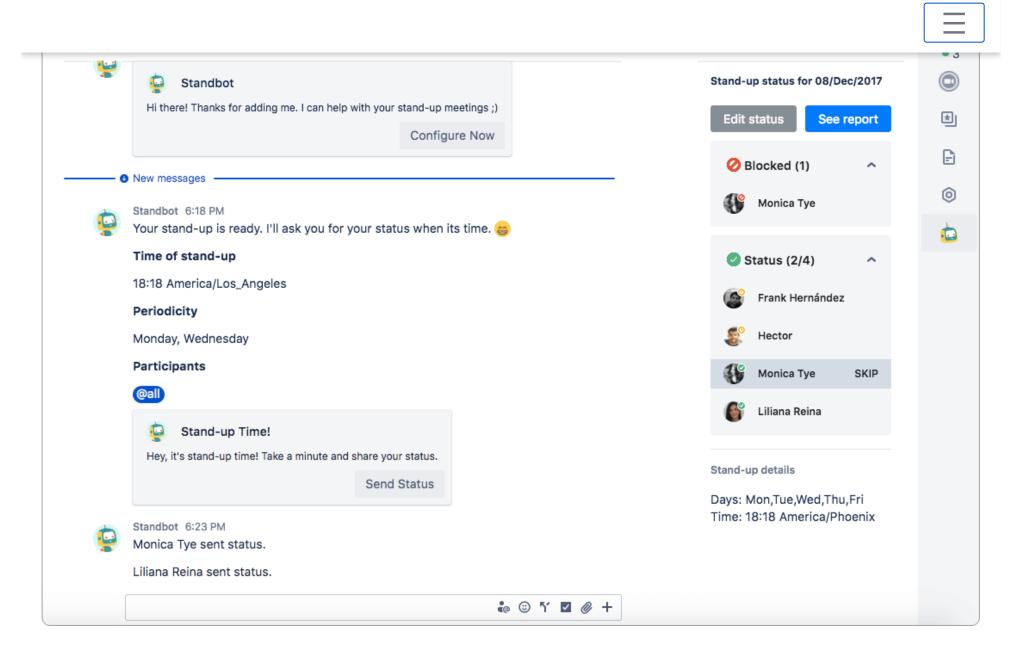
Stride + stand-up for distributed teams

At Atlassian, we have team members all over the globe: in one of our 12 offices or otherwise working remotely. We rely on Stride to keep everyone connected across geographies. Each team at Atlassian has a team room that keeps everyone in touch with one another. One feature of   →

Standup Bot

Standup Bot in Stride makes it easy to report and retrieve statuses for stand-up, especially for teams in different time zones. In fact, Atlassian built this bot for Stride because asynchronous stand-up meetings are a way of life for most teams.

Add Standup Bot to any Stride room or chat from the Atlassian Marketplace.
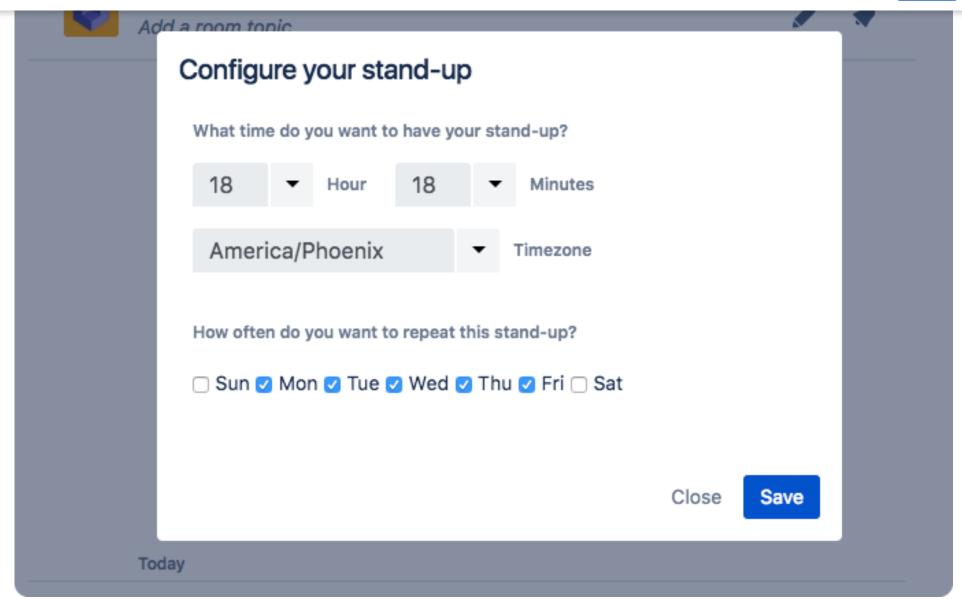
→

Standbot

Hi there! Thanks for adding me. I can help with your stand-up meetings ;)

Configure Now

Stand-up status for 08/Dec/2017

Edit status   See report

🚫 **Blocked (1)**   ⌃

     Monica Tye

● New messages

Standbot 6:18 PM

Your stand-up is ready. I'll ask you for your status when its time. 😁

Time of stand-up

18:18 America/Los_Angeles

Periodicity

Monday, Wednesday

Participants

@all

    Stand-up Time!

    Hey, it's stand-up time! Take a minute and share your status.

    Send Status

Standbot 6:23 PM

Monica Tye sent status.

Liliana Reina sent status.

✅ **Status (2/4)**   ⌃

     Frank Hernández

     Hector

     Monica Tye   SKIP

     Liliana Reina

Stand-up details

Days: Mon,Tue,Wed,Thu,Fri
Time: 18:18 America/Phoenix

Whether you're a collocated or a distributed team, Standup Bot helps teams stay connected and productive. Here's how it works:

→

Invite Standup Bot to your Stride Rooms and configure the time and recurrence of your stand-up.
When it's time for stand-up, Standup Bot will remind everyone to submit their reports.

→

Add a room topic

Configure your stand-up

What time do you want to have your stand-up?

| 18 | ▼ | Hour | 18 | ▼ | Minutes |

| America/Phoenix | ▼ | Timezone |

How often do you want to repeat this stand-up?

☐ Sun ☑ Mon ☑ Tue ☑ Wed ☑ Thu ☑ Fri ☐ Sat

Close   **Save**

Today

Stay on the loop on your team's status

→

☰

See the history of your stand-up reports

Navigate through your past stand-up reports to get a more profound view of team member's performance and the project's progress.

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DAN RADIGAN

Agile has had a huge impact on me both professionally and personally as I've learned the best experiences are agile, both in code and in life. You'll often find me at the intersection of technology, photography, and motorcycling. Find me on Twitter! @danradigan

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Learn scrum with Jira Software

A step-by-step guide on how to drive a scrum project, prioritize and organize your backlog into sprints, run the scrum ceremonies and more, all in Jira.

Try this tutorial →

ARTICLE

What is a Scrum Master?

Learn what a Scrum Master is (and what they are NOT), and how the role supports and works with other members of an agile team.

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