

Assignment 10--Deciding About Agile at Mighty Jaxx

Yuan Sun 03/12/2023

Writing Prompt 1

I believe “Production” will benefit the most from implementing the Scrum/sprint methodology.

The Scrum/sprint methodology is an agile framework that emphasizes teamwork, communication, and iterative progress. It is particularly well suited for complex projects with rapidly changing requirements. Implementing this approach to project management allows teams to focus on delivering a specific set of task objectives within a defined time frame by breaking down the overall goal into smaller sprints, ensuring that the overall project stays on track and that issues are resolved quickly.

From the text, we know that “Production” is the most time-consuming, expensive, and unpredictable part of the product development process, and also includes multiple phases, making it just decent for managers to use the Scrum/sprint approach for project management. From the material, we also know that the production process includes a large number of issues that need to be negotiated and discussed, leading to countless potential and unexpected changes. If the Scrum/sprint methodology can be implemented, I believe the production team will be capable of respond to these changes more efficiently.

Generally, in practice, Mighty Jaxx's production team can use Scrum/sprint to manage all phases of the production process, including negotiating, moulding and coloring. For example, the team can hold daily stand-up meetings to discuss progress, identify any issues and plan for the day ahead. They can also use the sprint backlog to track their progress and ensure they are on track to meet their goals.

As for the Kanban approach, it differs from the Scrum/sprint approach in that under this approach, each team member is primarily responsible for their own tasks and ensuring that tasks are completed on time, with no emphasis on communication and teamwork, which is clearly needed in the production process. Without communication and collaboration, many parts of production that require negotiation and adjustment will be difficult to move forward.

Writing Prompt 2

I believe “Distribution” will benefit the most from implementing Kanban methodologies.

Possible Kanban Board Columns:

Not in stock: This column represents products waiting to be warehoused.

Backlog: This column represents products that are ready to be shipped and awaiting processing.

In progress: This column represents products that are undergoing processes, such as quality control checks, packaging, labeling before being shipped.

Shipping: This column represents the products that have been shipped.

Steps	Not in Stock	Backlog	In Progress	Shipped
Limit				
Works				

Distribution teams can use the Kanban board to track the status of products at different stages, from “Not in Stock” all the way to “Shipped”. As each product goes through different stages of distribution, the team can move it to the appropriate column on the Kanban board. Kanban's excellent visualization gives the distribution team a clear picture of the status of the product and the progress of work at each stage, which helps identify bottlenecks and improve the flow of products through the distribution process. It also allows the team to prioritize tasks and manage inventory levels more effectively.

In the materials, we learned that Mighty Jaxx had failed to deliver products on time, and the Kanban board was a good way to avoid this from happening repeatedly. Each column in the Kanban board has its own WIP limit, and the limit of each step is the amount of work that is allowed to be performed simultaneously within a given time frame. By knowing the capabilities of each step, the distribution team can ensure that they do not take on more work than they can handle, thus avoiding late product delivery.

The visualization of the Kanban board is more important to the distribution team than scrum, as they need to track the status of the product and the work at different stages so they can make timely adjustments to make the entire distribution process develop smoothly. Distribution does not require a high degree of teamwork and is a multi-phase effort, which does not lend itself to scrum's small sprints to split the project plan.

Writing Prompt 3

Dear Jackson,

As we are considering the move to agile in your company, I would like to draw your attention to the impact of “confirmation bias” on the decisions you make in this process. “Confirmation bias” is a kind of cognitive bias, which refers to the tendency to seek out and remember information that confirms preexisting beliefs, while ignoring or discounting information that contradicts them.

In the context of switching to agile project management, failure to pay attention to this type of bias can lead to a lack of critical evaluation of agile methods due to a focus on the perceived benefits of agile, or to sticking to antiquated approaches due to a failure to shift thinking from the original project management approach. These can both lead to hard adoption of agile, or even a completely failure of implementation. To avoid falling into the trap of confirmation bias, I suggest you approach the decision-making process with an open mind and encourage your team to do the same.

Don't take things for granted, stay behind in your original thinking can lead to fail to implement agile smoothly.

Best regards,
Yuan