

Deciding about Agile at Mighty Jaxx

Writing Prompt 1

Scrum and sprint methodologies have become increasingly popular in different industries because of the proven results. Mighty Jaxx has already adopted scrum methodologies and is trying to implement them as part of their operations. And there are some specific aspects of scrum that can actively enhance the company's operational profile. During single sprints, burndown charts can indicate visually the amount of work left in relation to time, so it provides a good representation of what specific tasks are being held back and can make it easier to find reasons behind it. Burn up charts at the same time can provide managers with an overall image of the progress of the project and identify bigger picture problems that may lurk. These two charts along with daily scrums enhance communication between management and employees and keep everyone engaged. Kanban in this instance might not be the most appropriate as it would require to spend a lot of time to identify every single work in progress, assess on the completion rate and fully understand the limits set between each stage. Kanban is useful in very specified and simplified project but in a larger context it might not provide benefits.

Writing Prompt 2

Kanban is an agile methodology with multiple different applications and iterations. There is no specific framework that works for Kanban, but it's the sheer flexibility and overall fundamental that render it a viable option for any type of project undertaken. In the case of Mighty Jaxx, where already some of the basics of Kanban have been integrated into their operations, for example the specified breakdown of the different departments and the assignment of teams for specific tasks. Some other basic principles of Kanban could also benefit the manufacturing and R&D departments of Mighty Jaxx. Introducing Kanban boards, limiting work in progress and building a backlog of work are some key parts that can definitely streamline manufacturing and promote cooperation within the different teams and departments. The existence of the board itself can make some problems between the prototype development and the manufacturing identifiable, or even maybe enhance distribution operations. Mighty Jaxx might not prove to be the best use case for Scrum/ Sprint methodologies for various reasons. An obvious one would be the negative feedback given by employees on the scrum methodologies that create too much overhead. Scrum in some instances may create problems in team efforts as some departments may be under higher amounts of pressure in relation to other ones. Especially when it comes to production, during periods of high demand and limited timeframes, scrum may essentially create a barrier for optimization with its different backlogs, sprints and daily scrums.

Writing Prompt 3

Greetings Mr. Aw,

The purpose of this email is to provide some insight and consultation on the choice of the best agile framework that can be applied in Mighty Jaxx's operations. Based on the findings from observing the company's operations and reading several reports issued from both management and other departments I have identified a certain cognitive bias that might render the adoption of scrum as overstated. This cognitive bias is called a base rate fallacy and refers to the adoption of certain stereotypes and common knowledge as generic truths, thus using them as verified assumptions. This fallacy can refer to scrum's success rate. We need to fully understand how helpful or detrimental scrum can be in the company's operation before integrating it. Falling victim to this bias can lead to several internal and communication problems. Scrum might prove to have a negative effect on the company and because of this bias, we might never be able to identify the truth and start looking for problems in the wrong places. I would suggest to take a step back, assess the situation as a whole, and then proceed with any type of application of a certain methodology. Thank you for your time and I am looking forward to hearing your feedback on the subject.

Best regards,

Dimitrios Mageiras