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Product Tester Journal

As a key player to a Scrum Team, the Product Tester reinforces their co-workers, testing their results after each sprint. Sprints are coordinated to do as the name suggests, executing phases of the development process into manageable portions as the work comes in and testing afterward. Rather than testing the product toward the end of development, testing after each sprint grants an opportunity to catch errors before they cause additional problems. The Product Tester can make sure the project is on course and ready for the next phase of development. Catching minor errors before they become major is one of the main benefits of Agile Methodology.

Agile Testing is a more proactive and concurrent approach opposed to a Waterfall Method where testing is more reactive, and testing may be done by a totally separate group. Agile testing integrates testing as the work is being done, testing after every sprint. In fact, it is a common ideology to install the responsibility of testing into everyone on the scrum team. To assume someone else is going to fix your mistakes at the end of each sprint isn’t efficient, and testing your own work can save time for the specialized tester to catch mistakes you may have overlooked. Allowing the Product Tester more time to focus more on quality assurance (QA) testing and combing through the finer details will help the entire Scrum Team deliver a better product. A Scrum Team should be cross-functional and collaborative; the Product Tester should not be the only one responsible for ensuring the product is functional.

In an agile Scrum Team, testing is done concurrently with each sprint, as well as after each sprint. As the project progresses, there will be many sprints and hundred or even thousands of tests will be done. However, the team must make sure added pieces of development don’t affect other parts of the project that were already tested. This dilemma introduces regression testing, and the Product Tester needs time to implement this into his work. That is why it is important to have a specialized QA Tester on the team, but there may be so many tests to revisit that it may become unmanageable. Automated testing may be required to do some of the regression testing so the Product Tester can focus on the concurrent testing. Test software can be implemented to run the program overnight and find retrospective bugs that a current sprint may be causing.

In conclusion, The Product Tester cannot be solely in charge of every single test. They need the help of their Scrum team or even automation when there are thousands of tests in the later stages of the project. The Product Tester should be a specialized programmer focusing on quality assurance and overlooked aspects of the product. QA Testing will deliver a superior product and protect the entire Scrum Team from overlooking errors that may not have been considered in the Sprint Planning.