THE ART OF AGILE PRODUCT DOCUMENTATION

pre

post

PLANNING MATERIAL

Lightweight

Disposable

IMPLEMENTATION IN-PROGRESS MATERIAL

Lightweight

Disposable

"DONE" MATERIAL

Version-controlled with the Increment

User-centric/Audience-specific

HAND-OFF MATERIAL

Version-controlled with the Increment

User-centric/Audience-specific

THE ART OF AGILE PRODUCT DOCUMENTATION

A SENSE-MAKING WORKSHOP TO SIMPLIFY *VALUABLE* DOCUMENTATION & REDUCE *WASTEFUL* DOCUMENTATION

HOW TO USE

1. Check here that you have all the materials you need:

   https://davesabine.com/The-Art-of-Agile-Product-Documentation/

2. Conduct the workshop with your own teams & stakeholders.

3. Tell me how it goes via Twitter or LinkedIn.

4. Ask questions, report a typo or problem, or suggest changes here: Submit New Issue
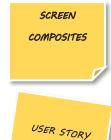
LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Reframe our understanding of documentation with respect to knowledge work in complex environments. (Documents are not truth. They are snapshots of current understanding. If not treated carefully, they create fiction not transparency.)

2. Reframe our understanding of 'implementation' — when does it occur in product development? (Hints: it isn't a phase or project milestone; it is every moment in which a decision is codified in *the product*.)

3. Compare the purpose of artifacts/documents produce pre and post implementation. (Documents pre-implementation do not represent decisions; they represent, at best, incomplete information. Documents create at or after the point of implementation are obsolete the moment they are produced.)

4. Appraise commonly-used documents with respect to customer-value — in contrast to perceived business/process 'importance'. (Documents are often produced because someone demanded they be done; but many documents are not the artifacts that any customer is willing to pay for. How might we focus on documentation which has actual value?)

5. Consider and describe ways each artifact may be   or simplified. (Like eliminating a Business Requirements Document in favour of a flexible/dynamic Product Backlog, how might an Agile team simplify the design and production of necessary artifacts/documents?)

SEGMENT 1: CONNECTION/REFLECTION (~8 MINUTES)

1. In segment 1, everyone in the Product Development organization will make visible all the documents currently in use.

   SCREEN COMPOSITES

2. If conducting this activity with larger groups, subdivide into smaller groups approximately 5±2 and provide each team/table-group with the blank worksheet from page 1 of this document.

   USER STORY

3. Suggest they use small sticky-notes with one idea/document per note.