**Common Questions**

Well, we have covered a lot of ground here. While you digest all this information, here are some key questions that often confuse even the experienced. Let’s get them out of our way!

***Differentiation between a Scrum Master and a Project Manager?***

*There are several differences, but one key one is that a Scrum Master is a Servant Leader with no authority while a Project Manager is a Leader with power! So do we still need Project Managers? Well, in the Scrum model, the development teams will have a Scrum Master, and there is no role defined for a Project Manager. However, there are activities like Financial reporting, budgeting, and resource management that the SM won’t do. So you still need someone to do that. Some organizations that follow Scrum still keep a Project Manager who will do these activities for say 3-4 Scrum teams.*

*Other than that, you will always have the Managers and leadership team. Have you ever thought of who forms the Scrum team in the first place? They don’t form on their own. There are managers and leadership teams who would form the scrum teams and allocate people on that Scrum (including development team members, scrum masters, and product owners). Once the team formation finishes, these leadership team/managers have no role in running it on a day to day basis.*

***Is Scrum Master a full-time role?***

*If the product owner takes care of the requirement and development team would do development, then what will Scrum Master do the whole day? Well, it depends on how much self-organized a Scrum team is. For newer teams, he/she would be occupied in coaching teams to implement right scrum processes, and to ensure that the organization also understands Scrum. For settled teams, A SM would have free time which can utilize for organization-level activities (training, hiring, etc.)*

***Can the same person be the Scrum Master and Product Owner?***

*The short answer is NO! Both of these require a different skill set. While the product owner works with stakeholders to get requirements, the Scrum Master is on the ground with the team to facilitate meeting sprint goals.*

***Can one of the Development team members play the role of Scrum Master?***

*Ideally, NO, but it’s possible. If Scrum Master goes on leave, a senior member of the team can play that role for a while. It can happen only when the team is self-organized, and all the team members are well aware of scrum processes and can work independently.*

***Can a Scrum Master play this role for multiple Scrum Teams?***

*Again, it’s not very often and encouraged, but still possible. If the organization knows the Scrum process fully and teams self-organize, then an SM could lead two development teams. At times multiple scrum teams are working on creating a product. Additionally, there is a lot of synergies between the team. In such cases, he/she can lead multiple Scrum teams. Also, if a Scrum Master is on leave, another Scrum Master could backfill him for a short time frame while taking care of his team as well.*

***Can we have multiple product owners for a team?***

*Well, you will see in a large organization that there are multiple product owners for a product. These product owners could work with each other to define the overall product.  However, there could be only one product owner for each Scrum Team. There are no exceptions to this rule. It ensures that the Scrum Team has a single point of contact for all requirements, and there are no conflicting directions.*