project development delivery of sprint

Everything you need to know about Sprints in project management

The agile methodologies of project management, and especially the Scrum framework, has become the cornerstone of modern software development. Are you wondering about the value of the Scrum Sprints in project management? This article is for you.

Let’s start with the basics. Scrum is an agile framework designed to help the teamwork together. It fosters team self-organizations, encourages teams to learn from experience, and reflect on what works and what doesn’t to continuously improve their process.

While Scrum is mostly used by software development teams, its principles can be applied to all kinds of teamwork. That’s why Scrum is so popular today. As a useful project management framework, Scrum describes a system of roles, events, artifacts, and rules that work together to help teams organize and manage their work. A critical part of Scrum are Sprints. Read on to find out everything you need to know about sprints.

What are Sprints?

Teams that follow the Scrum framework build products in a series of iterations that break down large and complicated projects into more manageable, bite-sized pieces. These iterations are Sprints.

A Sprint is a short, time-boxed period during which a Scrum Team works to complete the set amount of work. Sprints are at the core of Scrum, and by getting them right, companies can help agile teams ship high-quality software, faster and more frequently. Most importantly, working in Sprints gives teams more flexibility and allows easier (and less costly) adaptation to change.

What happens during a Sprint?

Now that you know what a Sprint is let’s have a closer look at what happens within each Sprint carried out by the Scrum Team. Here’s the typical process of a Sprints in project management:

At the start of the Sprint:

Every Sprint starts with a special meeting called the Sprint Planning. During this meeting, the software development team and the Product Owner plan the next sprint in detail. They decide which Product Backlog Items from the Product Backlog will be processed during the Sprint. These Backlog Items are moved to the actual Sprint Backlog. It’s the Product Owner’s responsibility to choose the Backlog Items for each Sprint. The Development Team is free to decide how it’s going to meet these requirements.

During the sprint

Daily Scrum is the most important activity during a Sprint. The Daily Scrum meeting usually lasts no longer than 15 minutes. It always takes place in the same location and at the same time, to avoid confusion. Who’s in charge of the Daily Scrum? This time, it’s not the Product Owner, but the Scrum Master. The Product Owner plays an important role in all other activities, but the Daily Scrum is about something else than developing the product. It’s about how the development team works together. That’s why the daily meeting focuses on discussing what has been done so far and will be done next. The idea is that the team members share any potential roadblocks or problems with each other to streamline the working progress.

At the end of the Sprint:

During a Sprint, the team works on all the tasks that have been added to the Sprint Backlog. When the Sprint is at the endline the team comes together for the Sprint Review meeting. At this meeting, the team demonstrates the product increment to the Product Owner, as well as other relevant stakeholders (for example, the client). The Product Owner’s job at this point is making sure that all the requirements from the Sprint Backlog have been fulfilled. Those who aren’t will land in the Product Backlog again and wait to be picked up by the team during one of the following sprints.

How long is a sprint?

Most of the time, Scrum Teams set their Sprint length to two weeks. But this value isn’t a given. Depending on your project specificity, team capabilities, and many other factors, it might make sense to set a longer or shorter sprint tim