

Agil Project Management

Naki Ali, Tima

Betreuer: Matthias Strljic



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Introduction

Objectives & Research Questions

Scope:

- Apply Agile PM to automated AAS–EDC synchronization (Stay-in-Sync) in IoT contexts

Aims:

- Adapt sprint planning & backlog management for mixed software and configuration workflows
- Introduce Kanban WIP-limits to prevent sync-pipeline bottlenecks
- Compare Scrum, Kanban & hybrid (Scrumban) approaches for our team

Research Questions:

1. How do 1–2-week sprints affect release frequency & pipeline stability?
2. What impact do explicit WIP-limits have on synchronization error rates?
3. When does Scrumban outperform pure Scrum or Kanban in adaptability and quality?



From Classical to Agile Project Management



Classical PM

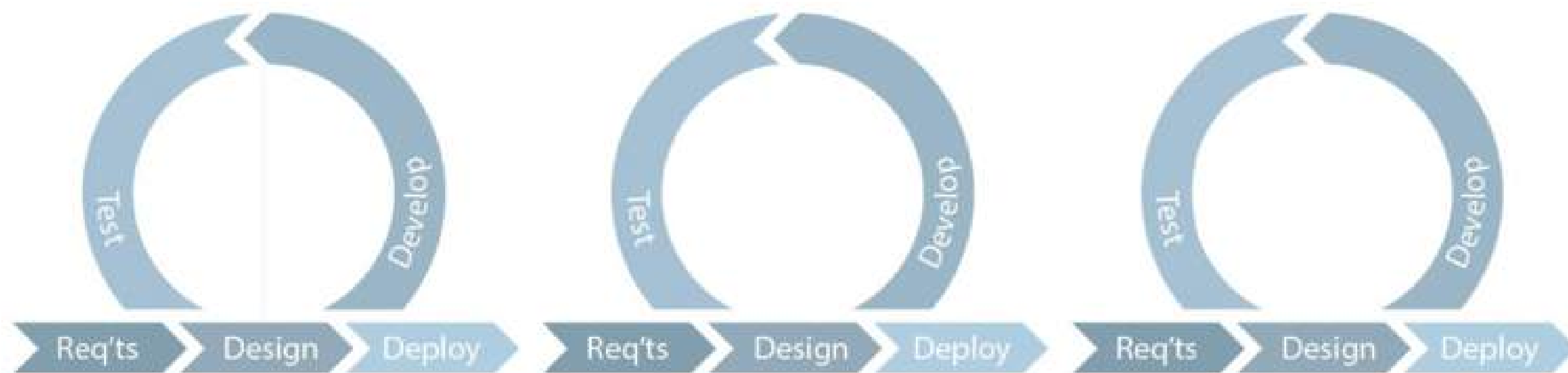
Waterfall



Final Outcome



Agile



Preliminary Outcome



Intermediate Outcome



Final Outcome



Definition

What Is Agile Project Management?



Cooperating with the customer is more important than contract negotiation



People and interactions are more important than processes and tools



Working software is more important than extensive documentation



Responding to changes is more important than following a plan

The Agile Principles

Welcome changing requirements, even late in development.



Deliver working increments frequently, from a couple of weeks to a couple of months.

Business people and developers must work together daily throughout the project.

At regular intervals, the team reflects on how to become more effective and adjusts accordingly.

Agile methods in project management



Scrum

Iterative Sprints: (1–2 weeks): Fixed timeboxes for planning, development, review & retrospective.

Roles & Ceremonies: Product Owner, Scrum Master, Development Team + Daily Stand-up, Sprint Planning, Sprint Review, Retrospective

Strengths: High predictability, clear responsibilities, regular stakeholder feedback

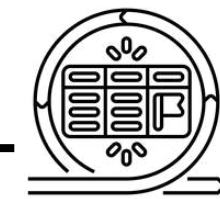


Kanban

Continuous Flow: No sprint rhythm; tasks are “pulled” as capacity becomes available

WIP Limits: Explicit caps on in-progress work prevent overload and surface bottlenecks immediately

Strength: Low overhead, high flexibility, instant visibility of blockers



Scrumban

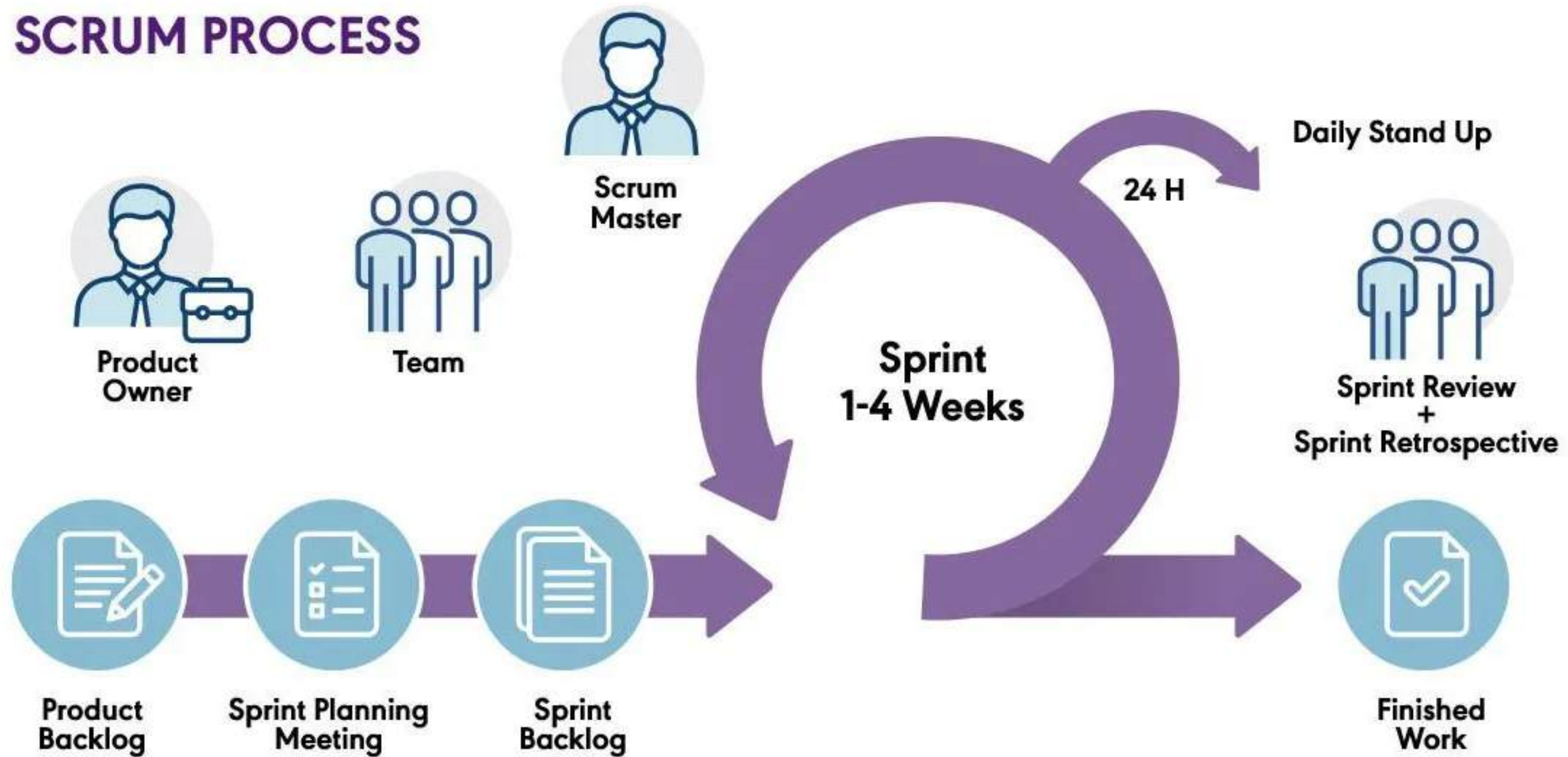
Hybrid Approach: 1–2 week sprints for reviews and retrospectives, combined with Kanban-style pull flow during the sprint

Lightweight Planning: Sprint Planning focused on top priorities, on-demand backlog grooming

Strengths: Optimal balance between predictability and flow control, regular feedback cycles with high throughput

Scrum

SCRUM PROCESS



Scrum



Product Backlog (PO)

All requirements, features, and bugs are collected and prioritized by the Product Owner in a single backlog.

Sprint Planning (PO, SM & Team)

The team defines a sprint goal and selects top-priority backlog items, creating the Sprint Backlog.

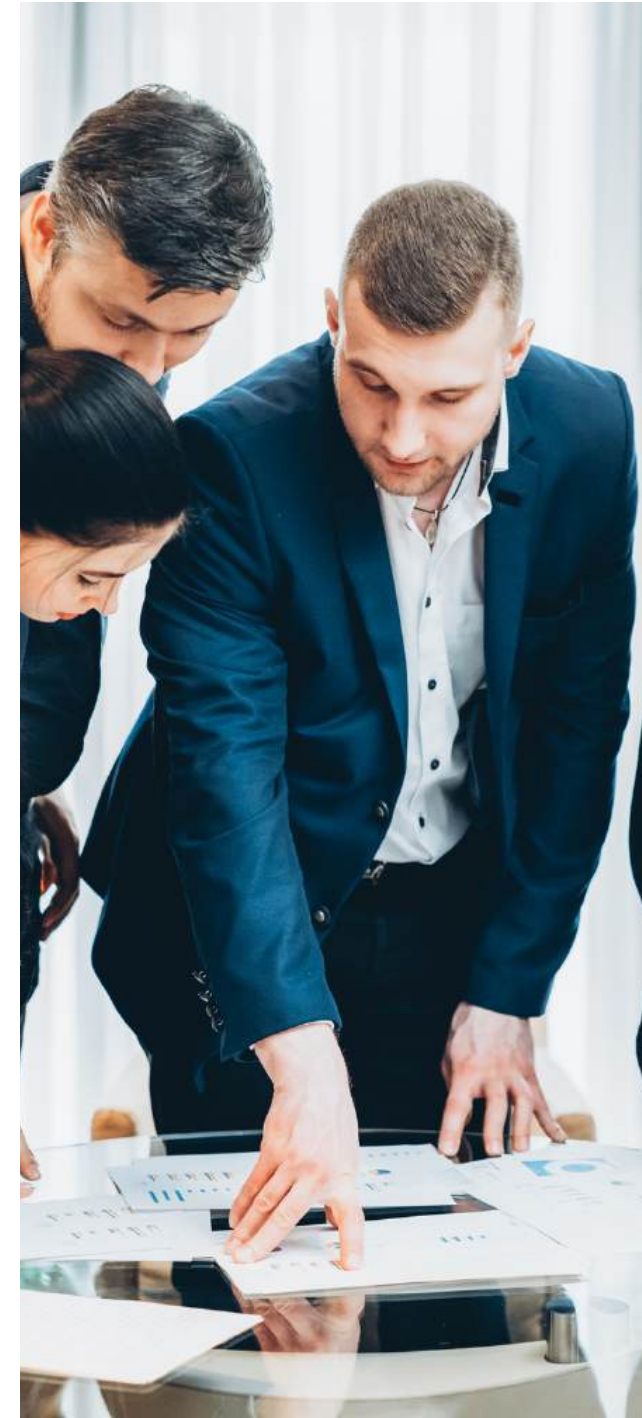


Sprint Backlog (Team)

The Development Team breaks each item into actionable tasks within the Sprint Backlog.

Sprint (Team)

Over a fixed timebox (1–4 weeks), the team delivers a potentially shippable increment; the Scrum Master removes blockers.



Daily Scrum (Team & SM)

All requirements, features, and bugs are collected and prioritized by the Product Owner in a single backlog.

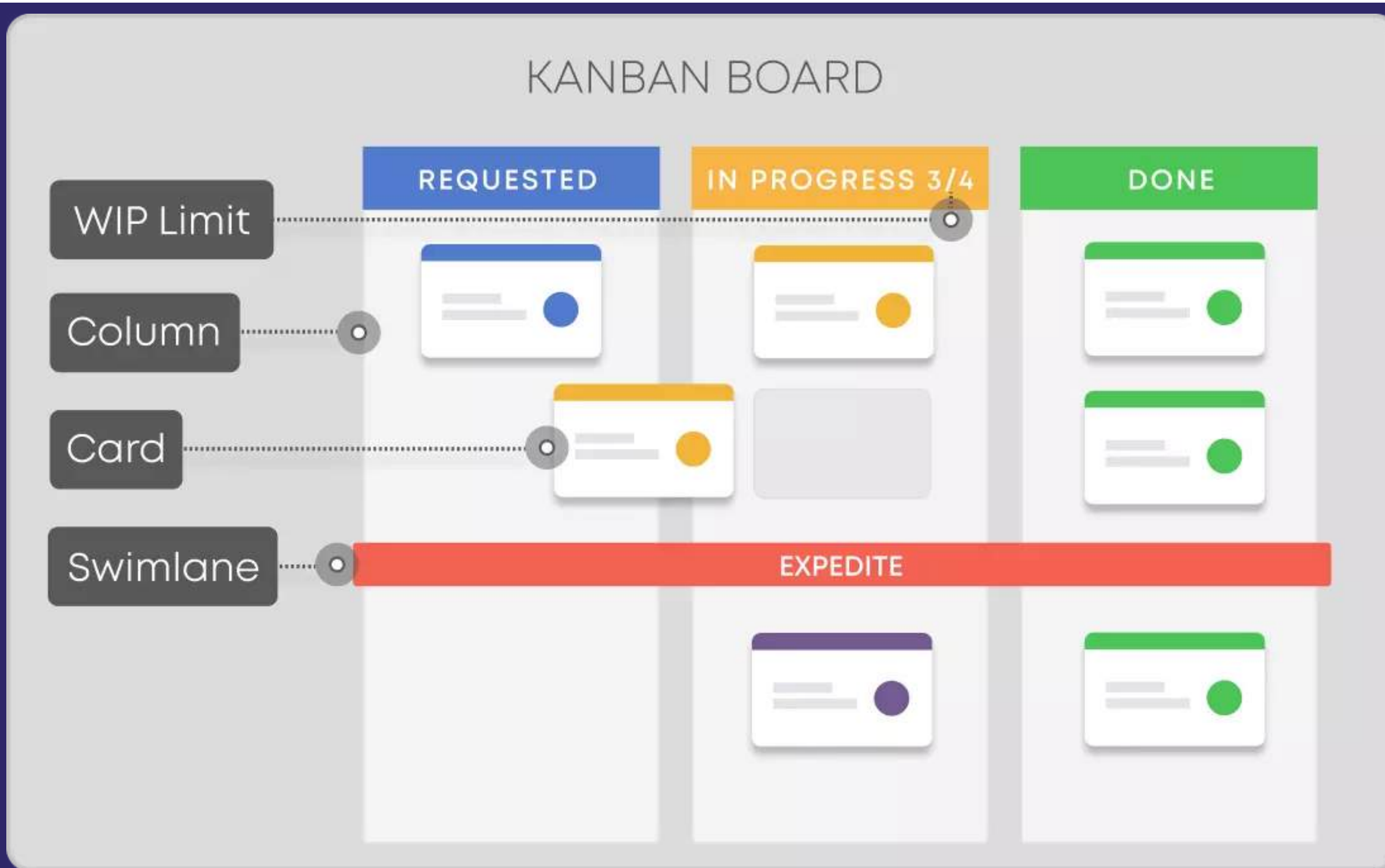
Sprint Review (PO, Team & Stakeholders)

The team demos the increment to the Product Owner and stakeholders; feedback goes back into the backlog.

Sprint Retrospective (PO, SM & Team)

The team reflects on successes and improvements, then defines actions for the next sprint.

Kanban



Kanban



Backlog & Board Setup

All work items are collected in a backlog and visualized on a Kanban board with columns like To Do, In Progress, Review, and Done.



WIP Limits (Team)

The team defines explicit Work-in-Progress limits for each column to prevent overload and highlight bottlenecks.



Pull-Based Execution (Team)

Developers pull the next highest-priority task into In Progress as soon as they have capacity, ensuring a smooth flow.

Daily Kanban Stand-up (Team & Coach)

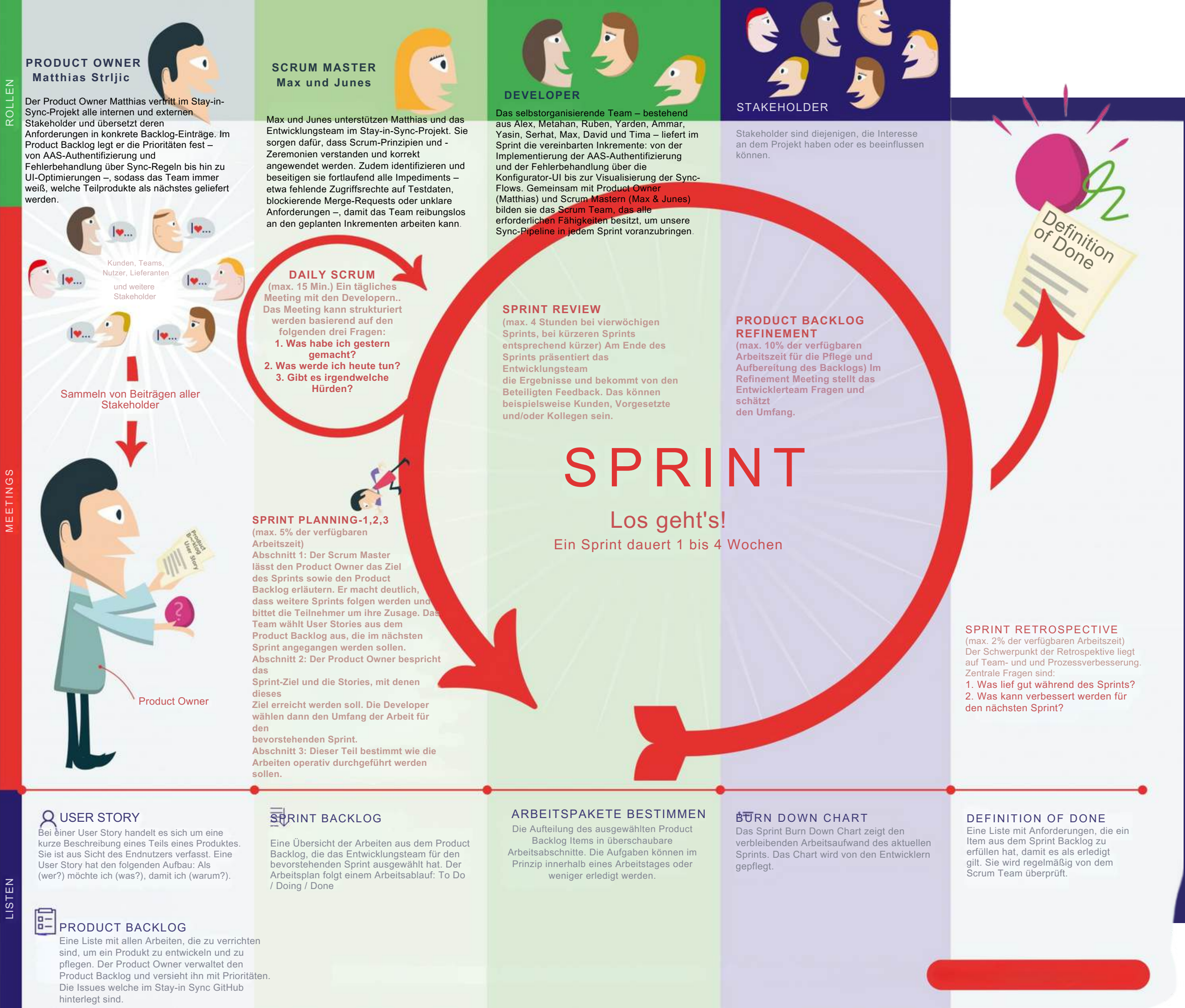
A brief daily meeting to review board status, discuss flow metrics, and unblock impediments.

Method Comparison

Comparing Scrum, Kanban und Srumban

CRITERION	CADENCE	PLANNING OVERHEAD	WIP CONTROLS	ROLES & EVENTS	FLEXIBILITY	FEEDBACK LOOPS
SCRUM	2-week Sprintst	High: Sprint Planning & Refinement	Indirect (Sprint scope)	Defined (PO, SM, Dev) + 5 ceremonies	Moderate	Scheduled (Review & Retro each Sprint)
KANBAN	Continuous flow	Low: On-demand prioritization	Direct (explicit WIP limits)	Informal (no mandatory roles/ceremonies)	High	Continuous (ad hoc)
SCRUMBAN	Sprint rhythm + pull-based flow	Medium: Lite Sprint Planning + backlog grooming	Direct (WIP limits within Sprint)	Optional SM + Sprint Review/Retro	Very high	Both scheduled and continuous

Solution 1:



Solution 2:

The screenshot shows a Kanban board for the project 'stay in sync'. The board is organized into four columns: 'Selected for development' (4 items), 'In Arbeit' (24 items), 'Ready for Review' (1 item), and 'In Test' (1 item). Each column contains task cards with details like 'StuPro #', task description, and tags. The interface includes a top navigation bar with a search bar and a bottom bar with a filter input and 'Discard'/'Save' buttons.

stay in sync Add status update

View 1 View 2 Skript-Engine View 4 Skript-Engine AAS-Backend Monitoring + configurator ui + New view

Filter by keyword or by field Discard Save

- Selected for development** (4)
 - StuPro #10: Implementierung REST-API für EDC-Verwaltung
 - StuPro #8: Implementierung der UI für Quellsystem Verwaltung (enhancement)
 - StuPro #9: Logging Konzept für Microservice Architektur implementieren (enhancement)
 - StuPro #11: Implementierung der ui für die EDC-Verwaltung
- In Arbeit** (24)
 - StuPro #44: Implementierung der API-Endpunkte für Quellsysteme (core-management, enhancement)
 - StuPro #47: Implementierung der AAS-Authentifizierung (API) (core-management, enhancement, help wanted)
 - StuPro #46: Verknüpfung von Quellsystemen mit Zielsystemen (API) (core-management, enhancement, help wanted, question)
- Ready for Review** (1)
 - StuPro #24: Implement basic SyncJob structure as Entities (core-management, enhancement)
- In Test** (1)
 - StuPro #16: Monitoring ui Grundgerüst Grundgerüst

+ Add item

Solution 3: Jira



Projects / Marketing / MAR board

Kanban board

Release

Only My Issues Recently Updated

BACKLOG 7

Expedite 6 issues

DEMO Issue 7

Homepage Design

MAR-13

DEMO Issue 8

Homepage Design

MAR-14

Everything Else 7 issues

Weekly Newsletter

MAR-4

DEMO Issue 3

Homepage Design

MAR-9

DEMO Issue 5

Homepage Design

MAR-11

DEMO Issue 6

Homepage Design

MAR-12

SELECTED FOR DEVELOPMENT 2

Homepage Design

Homepage Design

MAR-2

IN PROGRESS 3

DEMO Issue 2

Homepage Design

MAR-8

Homepage layout

Homepage Design

MAR-3

DONE 1

DEMO Issue 1

Homepage Design

MAR-7

We're only showing recently modified issues.

Looking for an older issue?

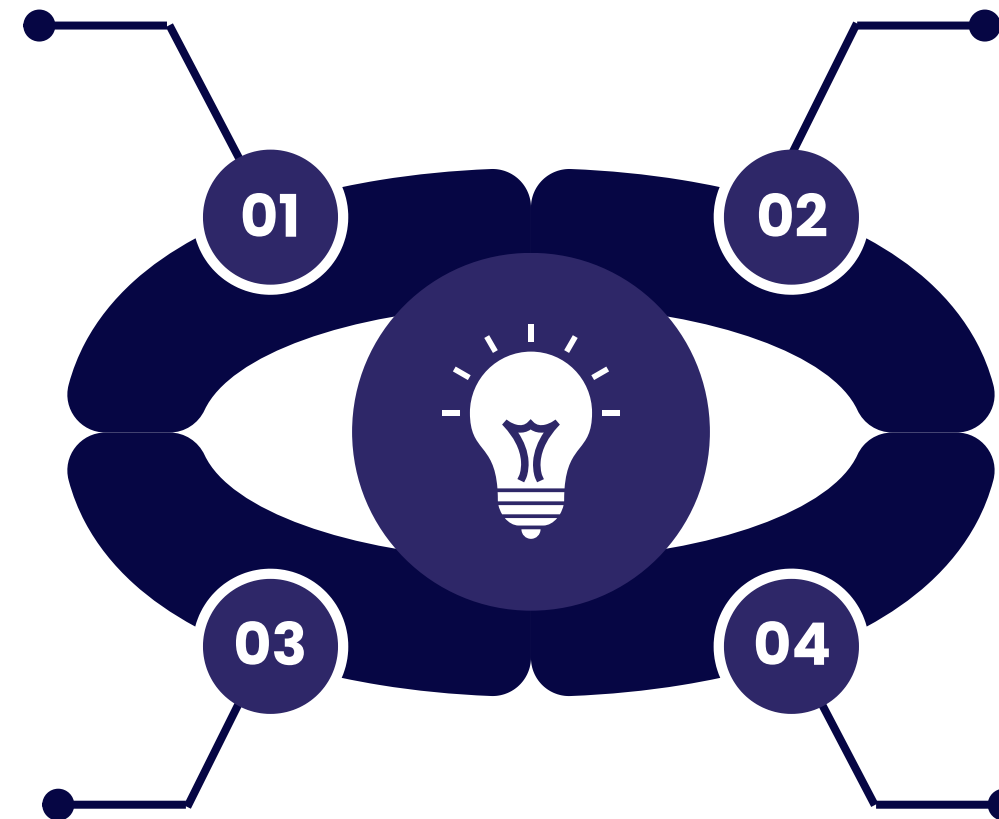
Evaluation Criteria

Planability

- **Scrum: High** – fixed 2-week sprints and burndown charts enable reliable scheduling.
- **Kanban: Medium** – continuous flow without time boxes; releases need to be scheduled separately.
- **Scrumban: High** – Combines sprint timeboxes with pull mechanisms, delivering both predictability and flexibility.

WIP-Control (Work-in-Progress)

- **Scrum: Medium** – the sprint-scope limitation controls how many tasks can be worked on in a sprint, but lacks explicit column limits.
- **Kanban: High** – explicit WIP limits in each column prevent overload and make bottlenecks immediately visible.
- **Scrumban: High** – leverages both WIP limits (Kanban) and sprint scope (Scrum) for maximum transparency.



Flexibility

- **Scrum: Medium** – changes during a sprint are limited; new feedback only flows into the next sprint.
- **Kanban: High** – the team pulls new issues immediately as capacity frees up; urgent hotfixes hit the board without delay.
- **Scrumban: High** – allows a pull flow for spontaneous tasks while retaining a sprint rhythm for greater predictability.

Team Maturity & Role Understanding

- **Scrum: High** – requires the PO, SM, and team to understand their roles and routinely execute Scrum ceremonies.
- **Kanban: Medium** – lower process overhead, suitable for beginners, but demands discipline in enforcing WIP limits.
- **Scrumban: Medium** – requires moderate process knowledge and is quickly adoptable by experienced teams.

Conclusion



Recommendation:

- Hybrid (Scrumban) is the best fit for Stay-in-Sync:
 - Combines predictability of 2-week sprints with flexibility of pull-based flow
 - Enforces WIP limits and regular feedback via reviews & retrospectives
- Tooling:
 - Jira as unified platform: Scrum boards, Kanban boards, automations, burndown & flow charts

Next Steps:

1. Pilot Scrumban Sprint (2 weeks)
 - Set up hybrid board in Jira: columns “To Do / In Progress (WIP≤3) / Review / Done” + Sprint Backlog
 - Create templates for user stories, tasks & Definition of Done
2. Team Onboarding
 - 1-hour workshop: roles, board workflow, ceremonies
 - Assign Jira permissions & automation rules
3. Establish Metrics & Cadence
 - Track burndown and cumulative flow
 - Weekly Delivery Review meeting
 - Bi-weekly Retrospective
4. Inspect & Adapt
 - After pilot, gather feedback, refine WIP limits, adjust board & ceremonies
 - Roll out adjusted Scrumban process to all teams

References

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