Hunter Goodwin

When I initially encountered the term Daily Scrum, I must admit I didn't immediately grasp the significance of why it was so vital and how it could possibly impact our workflow. It simply seemed to me like another generic meeting—something quick and fairly irrelevant that we needed to get out of the way before we could return to what I perceived as our more significant or "actual" work tasks. But as I've begun to get more into the immersion of working with Agile processes, particularly in team-based projects, I've realized that the Daily Scrum is one of those things that at first glance would appear to be a small thing, yet consistently doing it actually does end up making a huge amount of difference in the long term.

One of the most significant contributions that the Daily Scrum makes is to ensure that everyone on the team remains in sync and aware of what others are involved in, and thus on the same page as everyone else. It is incredible how quickly team members can start to head off in separate directions when working together, particularly if everyone is doing different tasks or working at different times of the day. But those daily check-ins make us pause and verbalize out loud what we are actually doing. And this is not simply reporting out what we've done, but also reporting out what we're going to work on next and catching us if there are trouble spots or roadblocks. That last part is very important—it is essential to realize that talking about the challenges we're facing can at first make you feel uncomfortable and awkward. But when you have these open discussions on a regular basis over time, what was perhaps once awkward becomes totally natural in your routine. You move from the sensation of confessing to having failed in some manner to the empowering awareness that you are merely being honest and transparent with your team.

The other thing that I have noticed is the subtle yet effective way that the Daily Scrum establishes and creates a sense of trust between team members. During these meetings, you actually have a chance to get to know your teammates in a way that goes deeper than the superficial interaction that can occur using messaging tools and written correspondence. You hear all about how they are progressing, the various problems they are encountering, and the innovative solutions that they have developed. You see them being consistent and dedicated as they collaborate with each other. As the days pass, you begin to lean on each other increasingly for help and support. Even though the meeting itself is brief, it serves as a daily reminder that we are all moving towards the same ultimate goal together. This collective experience can be very grounding, particularly when the project begins to feel disorganized or overwhelming in nature. Finally, the Daily Scrum is not merely a tool for productivity; rather, it is actually all about establishing connection among team members. It serves the important function of ensuring that no one is working in isolation or is stuck with their tasks without anyone to communicate with, thereby eliminating any sense of loneliness that may be generated in working towards their goals. This meeting provides an invaluable structure that serves to keep things in order but not in a too structured manner, allowing team members to share their thoughts and expertise freely but still respecting time constraints. Although this meeting lasts for only fifteen minutes, it incredibly serves a very significant function in driving success to the whole team by creating a collaborative environment in which everyone can succeed altogether.