

Curam PI Planning:

101: Getting Started



May 2025

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Starting with why - why PI Planning?

Articulating the reasons why we do this.



What happens during the Planning cycle?

A recurring set of events with their purposes



How can you participate and get value from PI Planning?

Opportunities for involvement and guides to participation.

FAQ, Feedback and Retrospectives.



Starting with why - why PI Planning?

Why?

Program Increment Planning (PI Planning) brings together multiple teams, business leaders and stakeholders to align around a shared mission and objectives for the next increment of work (12-14 weeks in Curam).

Customer Centricity



PI Planning anchors around the needs and priorities of customers and helps us to balance the outcomes that can help us to meet them: eg Features, Support, Technical Investment.

More than internal co-ordination or delivery, this helps focus on *what we want to achieve and for who*.

Building Visibility, Alignment, Commitment



Building transparency across teams and departments is a great reason to engage in PI Planning. Surfacing risks, complexity and dependencies can help improve confidence in the plan, and ultimately predictability.

Engaging Stakeholders in and out of PD/PM



PI Planning is an opportunity to break down silos between teams and between departments.

Key roles like product managers, architects, business managers, support teams, even customer facing staff can interact in PI Planning

Not a new idea!

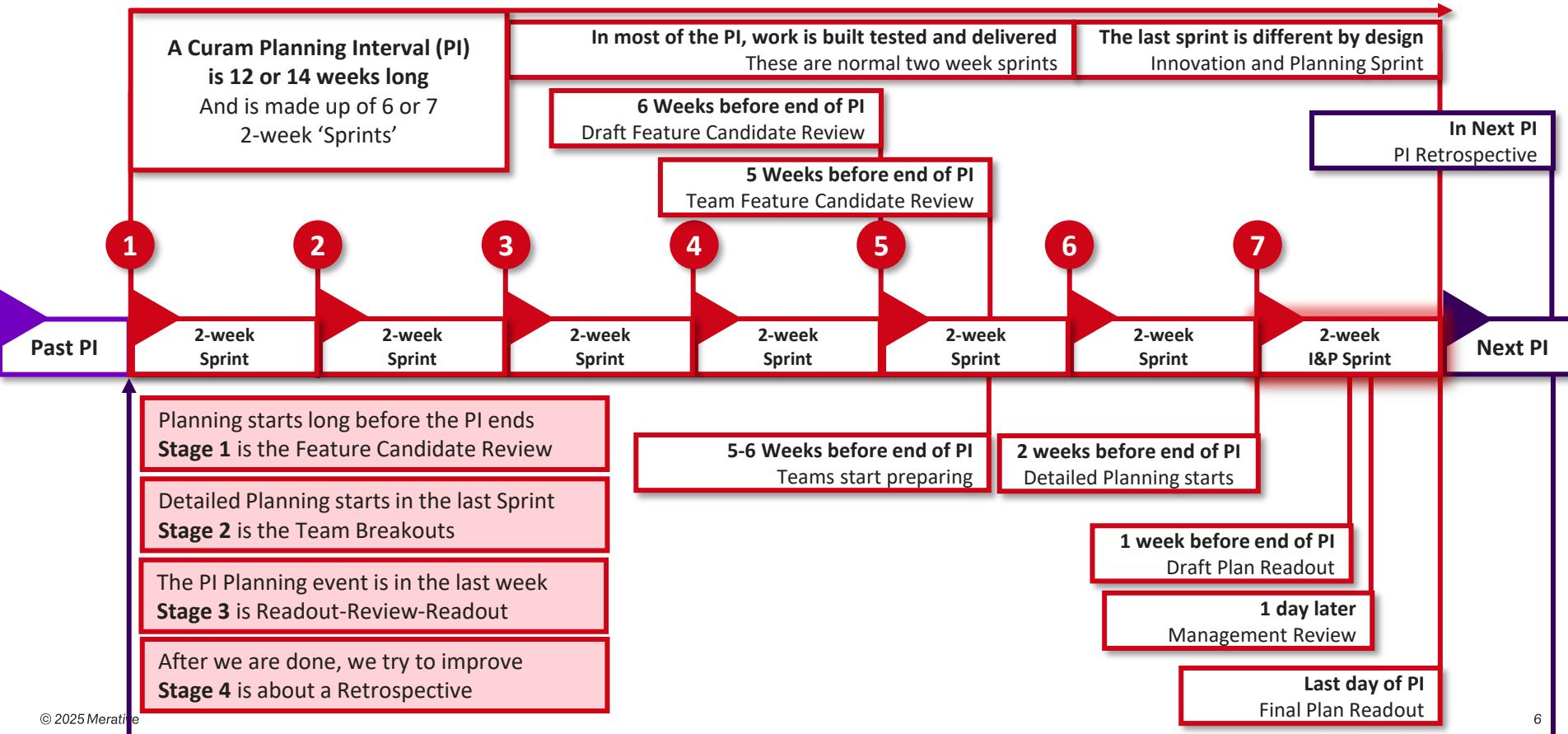


There's a myth that agile does not involve planning. This is simply not true. Responding to change is great, but planning together also has value. For example, Kent Beck talked about quarterly planning in XP as an engineering practice 25 years ago.



What Happens during the Planning cycle?

What happens during the Planning cycle?



What happens during the Planning cycle?

When?	What?	Why? Purpose of event.	Who presents?	Who attends?
6 weeks before PI ends	Draft Feature Candidate Review	Readiness: Discuss early feasibility of candidate features for the next PI, review the list with feedback and gather input.	Product Management	Curam Leadership Team
5 weeks before PI ends	Feature Candidate Review	Readiness: Share candidate features for the next PI for questions and feedback on desired outcomes and feasibility.	Product Management	Curam Teams, Stakeholders, Leadership
2 weeks before PI ends	Detailed planning starts with team breakouts	Planning: the last two weeks in the Program Increment are about closing the work of one PI, and planning the work for the next. Teams break out and work together to achieve this.	N/A	Teams
1 week before PI ends	Draft PI Plan	Planning: Teams share structured readouts of their plan. Intended PI Objectives, Capacity and Load, Balance of Work, Risks and Dependencies	Team Leads (Dev Lead, PO)	Curam Teams, Stakeholders, Leadership
One day after Draft Plan Review	Management Review	Planning: Review risks or issues raised by teams that require management assistance. ROAM risks, discuss trade-offs, decide resolution or mitigation. Any guidance on plan changes are shared with teams.	Coach	Team Leads, Leadership
Last day of the PI	Final Plan Review	Planning: Teams share their updated plans, focusing on changes since the Draft Plan Review.	Team Leads (Dev Lead, PO)	Curam Teams, Stakeholders, Leadership
Soon after	PI Planning Retrospective	Review: A retrospective asks us to look at the planning process itself and how we could do it better.	Teams	Teams and Coach



How can you participate effectively and get value from PI Planning?

How can you participate effectively?



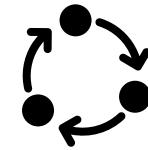
Please ask questions.

We can build out FAQs, support pages, more guidance, but your questions will influence the guidance we prepare.



Share your feedback!

*Does something hinder your PI Planning? Could we do something better?
Please share your ideas on this **feedback board** and you can help to drive improvements in the wider Planning processes.*



Retrospectives

Team Retrospectives that ask how we could do this better ourselves are a great way to look at your own ways of working.

We could do a wider retro too if there is demand: let us know!

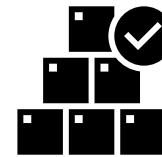
How can you participate effectively?



Know why and who for.

Understanding why we are working on something is a critical part of PI Planning.

Understanding who benefits from our work is also a key factor in helping make the right choices in delivering on the plan.



The plan won't be perfect

But it can be good enough! There is never enough time and/or resources to do everything we want.

We make tough decisions at PI Planning and juggle many factors. There is no such thing as a perfect plan... 'good enough' might be a better outcome.



If you are in any doubt...

Book time with a coach!

Wondering how to use the tools, how to write PI objectives, to frame a presentation, or as a stakeholder, wondering how to get involved?

[*Book time with Paddy Corry here to discuss*](#)



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