

SCRUM MASTER

Certification Guide

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Chapter 14: The Scrum Artifacts

There are three Scrum artifacts:

- The Product Backlog
- The Sprint Backlog
- The Increment of work the developers create

Scrum's artifacts represent work or value. They are designed to maximize the transparency of key information. Thus, everyone inspecting them has the same basis for adaptation.

— 2020 Scrum Guide page 10

Answering Three Important Questions

The existence of these artifacts helps provide transparency by answering the three questions stakeholders constantly want answers to:

- What is currently being done? That's answered by the Sprint Backlog
- What needs to be done? That's answered by the Product Backlog
- What's been done? That's answered by the Increments of work that have been produced

Stakeholders get angry and upset when they don't have answers to these questions.

The existence of transparent and inspectable Scrum Artifacts tends to calm the nerves of nervous stakeholders.

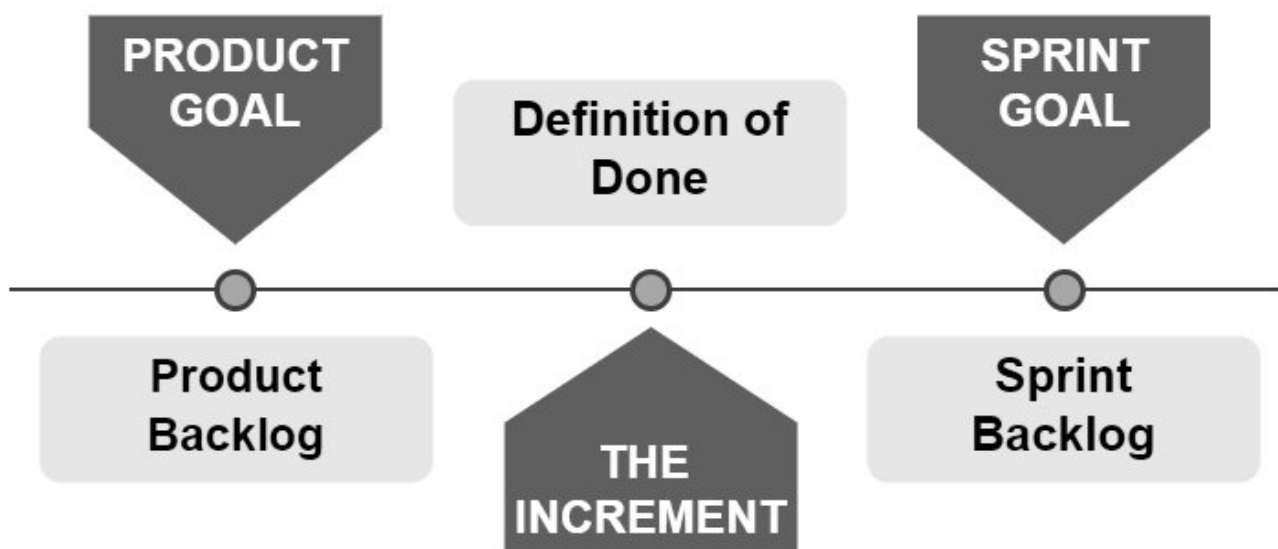


Figure 1. Each of the three Scrum artifacts, namely the Product Backlog, Sprint Backlog and the Increment, has a corresponding Scrum commitment. The Product Goal, Sprint Goal and the Increment are the Scrum commitments.

Test Yourself

The stakeholders are waiting on a new feature to be released and they want to know if it's being actively developed during this Sprint. Where would the stakeholders look to find this information? (Select 1)

- ☐ The Product Backlog
- ☐ The Sprint Backlog
- ☐ The Definition of Done
- ☐ The Sprint Goal

Option B is correct.

The Sprint Backlog provides transparency into what is being worked on during the current Sprint.

Scrum Commitments

The *Scrum commitment* is something new that was added to the 2020 Scrum Guide. Each artifact now maps to a Scrum commitment.

Each artifact contains a commitment to ensure it provides information that enhances transparency and focuses against which progress can be measured:

- For the Product Backlog it is the Product Goal.
- For the Sprint Backlog it is the Sprint Goal.
- For the Increment it is the Definition of Done.

These commitments exist to reinforce empiricism and the Scrum values for the Scrum Team and their stakeholders.

— 2020 Scrum Guide page 10

Every arrow needs a target. Each Scrum commitment act as a target for their corresponding artifact.



Figure 2. Scrum commitments are the targets for the Scrum artifacts to aim at. (Image from Freepik.com)

A Scrum commitment is the evaluation criteria against which a Scrum artifact is measured. Scrum commitments improve transparency and enhance an Agile Scrum developer's focus as the project progresses.

Test Yourself

The goal of every Sprint is to create an Increment that lives up to what ultimate measure?

- ☐ Standard performance metrics
- ☐ Quality Assurance review
- ☐ The Definition of Done
- ☐ A conflict-free merge into the master branch

C is correct.

The Increment commits to measuring up to the Definition of Done.

Test Yourself

How do the Scrum Artifacts reinforce empiricism for stakeholders?

- ☐ They help the stakeholder's chart velocity
- ☐ They help Quality Assurance teams confirm quality metrics are achieved
- ☐ They provide insight into what has been done and what is being done
- ☐ They help stakeholders estimate the overall cost of the project

Option C is correct.

Empiricism is all about observation and experience. The Scrum Artifacts allow stakeholders to know exactly what has been done and what is currently being worked on.

This provides more empirical evidence of the state of the project than burndown charts or cumulative flow diagrams.

Test Yourself

True or False: The Scrum Artifacts exist to reinforce empiricism only for the Scrum Team.

This is false. The Scrum Artifacts are accessible to the Stakeholders as well as the Scrum Team. They help reinforce empiricism for everyone involved in the project.