I have only been a developer in my career. As such, I will be considering each role from a developer’s point of view while trying to expand my knowledge of each role.

**Project manager**

Leadership skills are an important part of project manager’s toolkit. They must work with the entire team working on projects and often is the sole point of contact between parts of the team. It is often their responsibility to make sure each team has the resources they need and fix issues as they arise. Being able to act with confidence while providing helpful insight will help keep projects under control.

Project manager is often a customer facing role. In any such role, soft skills are paramount. Keeping a cool head during difficult times is vital. It is also important to not let team bare the wrath of customers more than is necessary.

**Product owner**

Product owner is a role with lots of communication to different directions. On one hand you need to be able to understand customer needs, on the other, you must be able to communicate fluently towards the developers. These are two very different skills and often I have been left stumped by a specification made by one of our most respected product owners. It might be too much to ask to be perfect at both, that is why soft skills are important. Being able to work through issues with customers and developers and come to a valuable conclusion is all that is needed.

**Business analyst**

Business analyst sounds like a fun role.

**Software architect**

Software architect is a very technical role. They still need to be able to work with project managers and product owners to create the definition for a software product. Once the product is done, some interactions can happen with software developers. As is well known, developers rarely agree on anything. Being able to use soft skills to smooth talk developers can never hurt. The best experience I have of a software architect is of a dude who shouted at the project manager and barely talked to developers. It was the perfect relationship, but it requires that the architect is very good.

**Development team leader**

Development team leaders can help others by lending their technical knowledge to those who need it. They can show leadership by having confidence in their methods of working and training new developers on the path. I have been personally told to redo certain parts of code, had good discussions about coding practices and gained invaluable advice from people more experienced than me.

**Scrum master**

Scrum master is the leader of their scrum team. Scrum master is responsible for enforcing the scrum practices in his team. Effectiveness of the team and improvements are the responsibility of the scrum master.

Scrum master has several responsibilities towards their team. These responsibilities include making sure the team members can manage themselves within scrum framework. Obstacles team members face should be attended by the scrum master. Scrum master needs to make sure sprints create high value. They are also responsible for scrum events to take place.

Scrum masters also have responsibilities towards the product owner. One of the most important ones is facilitating stakeholder communication. This communication can involve sprint and backlog planning, and setting expectations. The scrum master can also help the product owner in defining product goals, managing the backlog and helping the team and product owner understand each other.

On an organizational level, scrum masters also have responsibilities. These include assisting the organization to implement scrum methods and remove barriers between stakeholders and teams.

**Developer**

Developers are at the lowest level of leadership. Soft skills are still required as communicating laterally and up is required. Depending on the style of organization, even developers may have to take on some leadership.

**Testing team lead**

Would imagine testing team lead is a similar role as developer team lead in some ways. An experienced tester who can shape the ways of working in their department. Must work closely with the devops team to ensure proper testing procedures are in place.

**Tester**

I have worked a lot with testers. They are invaluable to developers when testing their work. In cases where solution needs more work, testers often have knowledge that was missed by the developer.

**DevOps engineer**

Devops engineers need to make sure cicd pipelines and other such constructs meet the needs of the business. This involves a lot of communication with testing, development and project teams.