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The Daily Scrum: A Meeting that isn’t a “Meeting”

Most organizations that consist of teams working collaboratively find the value in having daily meetings. However, when is a meeting not really a “meeting”? Answer: when it’s a Daily Scrum! The purpose of most meetings is to disseminate information, and the Daily Scrum does exactly that; however, the format is vastly different from the traditional meeting. There is no “presenter”, the meeting doesn’t last for hours, and there isn’t much note-taking. So what exactly does the Daily Scrum do, if it doesn’t follow these predetermined rules?

The Daily Scrum is a gathering of the development team behind a great new product or solution that has been requested by a client. The development team aren’t just attending this gathering, but they are also running it. A Scrum Master stands by to sort of “mediate” and kick things off, but the core of the information that is passed around originates from the attendees themselves. See, the purpose of the meeting is not so much to hand information down from higher up, but instead to pass information around to other team members, to “sync-up” what has been accomplished the previous day and determine what will be accomplished today. Additionally, potential “impediments” that could slow progress are discussed, and small teams within the team can form in order to knock these impediments out.

A Daily Scrum isn’t meant for problem solving or content discussion. The development team is instead encouraged to focus on the sprint backlog items and self-delegate to themselves the different tasks that need to be accomplished. The Daily Scrum allows the team members to get a big picture of what has already been accomplished, and what still needs to be done. They can call dibs on specific items, or group up with other team members to swarm a particular task. If they found they had an issue the previous day, they can link up with team members who may have knowledge on how to solve their problem, which they will work on *after* the daily scrum.

The Daily Scrum helps the team develop a sense of ownership over the project, and their work as a whole, since they run the majority of the gathering themselves. The Scrum master is there to facilitate the meeting, but they mostly take a backseat to the discussion, allowing the team to communicate freely about the project. The importance of the Daily Scrum cannot be overstated, and it is a valuable part of every team member’s day.

Citations

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