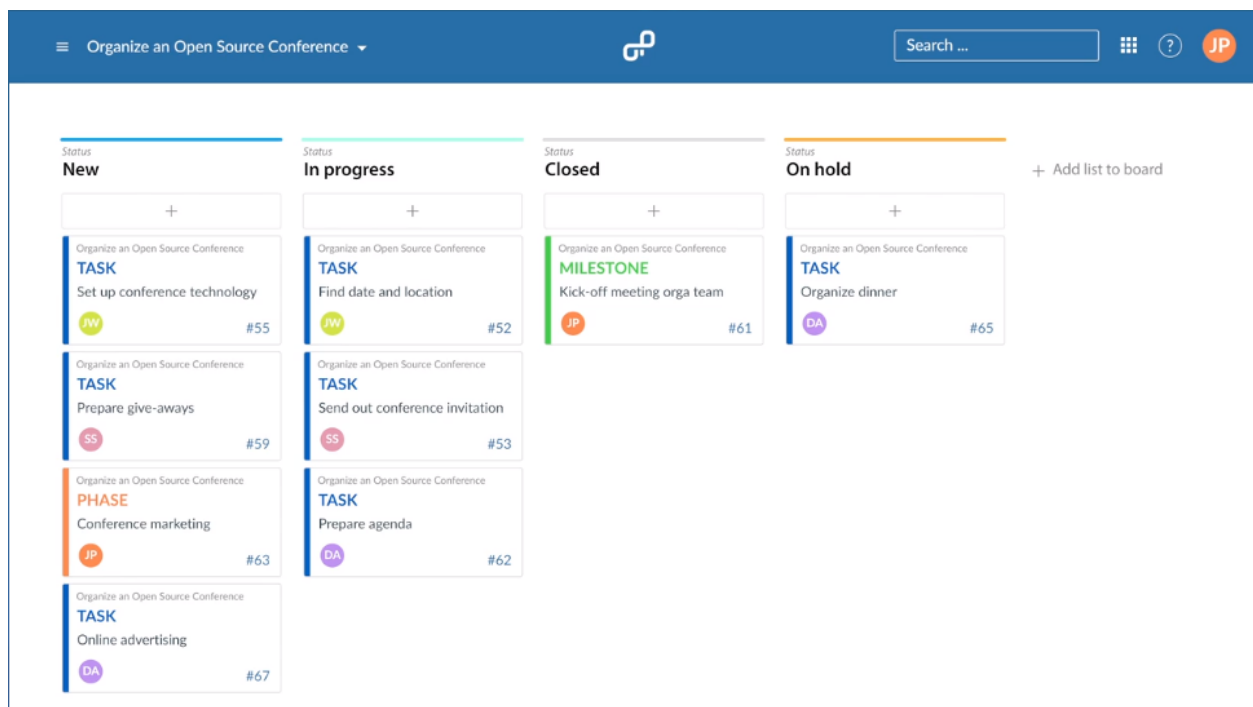


Agile Frameworks

As you begin using OpenProject software, specifically for software building projects, you may feel the need to get a better sense of how to use this software most effectively while doing work. When working with multiple members in a team, it may be difficult to manage tasks without adopting some sort of framework in Agile Methodology. There are several frameworks that many companies use today, but I will mention some of the more popular ones that may suit your team needs.

If your team is struggling to meet deadlines and the team just does not feel very organized. It is recommended to use the **Scrum framework**. While using OpenProject you may have been using the task management board or also called Kanban board. While Scrum makes use of real time status checks with the task management board, there are more moving parts in the process that can help your team stay focused on delivery of stories.



Scrum has members of a team who are responsible for helping the developers with the administrative responsibilities associated with the creation and delivery of user stories. One member is called the Product Owner. The Product Owner will be responsible for creating stories for the developers to implement. The Product Owner will create a backlog of stories that align with achieving the objectives of creating new features in a software product. So essentially, the Product Owner will create user stories in OpenProject and make sure these stories are slotted in time lines that are best aligned with the completion of feature goals. In OpenProject, the Product Owner may apply tags in the user stories that help group together stories that seem most beneficial to the in keeping track of work.

Another important member in a Scrum team is the Scrum Master. Where the Product Owner is mainly responsible for the creation of user stories and scheduling timelines and story prioritization, the Scrum Master is responsible for helping the team on delivering the stories. The Scrum Master in charge of administrative duties that keep the team moving forward. They communicate with stakeholders outside of the team about statuses and unblock the team when necessary. A Scrum Master would maintain the workflow in the task management board in OpenProject.

There are 5 ceremonies in the Scrum Framework. One ceremony is called the Daily Stand up. The Scrum Master will facilitate the meeting and typically will have the task management board open as well for visuals. Each team member will state what their status on a story is for that day; what they plan on doing with the story; and if they are experiencing any blockers that are preventing them from progressing in their work.

The second ceremony is called Sprint Planning. This meeting is meant to plan work for the upcoming sprint. A sprint is a short time-box for teams to accomplish work. Typically in a 2 week time frame. The sprints are meant to be short and consistent to help the team review progress and adapt to new changes that might be unexpectedly introduced. So, with going back to the Sprint Planning Ceremony, the Scrum Master and Product Owner will discuss with the team what are the best stories to accomplish for the sprint. It is recommended to have the backlog in OpenProject visually available so that all team members have transparency on the stories to be considered for work in the upcoming sprint. Planning agendas for this meeting usually include story prioritization and story workload estimation. When the team decides and agrees what to work on together and the ultimate goals that need to be achieved during that sprint, then the Sprint Planning ceremony is over and the sprint will begin.

The third ceremony is called the Sprint Refinement session. After the sprint begins, there can be periodic checks to ensure that the product backlog is groomed and ready for the subsequent sprints. The Product Owner will facilitate this session with the team. Agendas for refinement sessions can include things such as stories refining that improve the clarity of the requirements; story work estimation; and work prioritization. The refinement sessions happen during the sprint and can happen as often as needed.

The fourth ceremony is called the Sprint Review session. This meeting will occur after the sprint time-box has ended. The session is meant to review with the team what work has been done. Usually metrics will be pulled up to see the performance of that sprint. The user can make use of a variety of metrics in OpenProject and could help the team evaluate performance indicators. This session can also have a demo of working software as well for the Product Owner to review and evaluate if the work is aligned with what the Product Owner had envisioned. Stakeholders are sometimes invited to participate and see how the software build is progressing and also provide feedback. The client feedback is instrumental in keeping the team's work aligned with business goals.

The last ceremony is called the Sprint Retrospective. This ceremony is facilitated by the Scrum Master. It can be led in a variety of ways. The main objective is to get the team to reflect on their past sprint and be able to find ways to improve the next sprint.

All these ceremonies, the Scrum members, and sprint time boxes can help the team be more organized and deliver on time using the Scrum Framework. But if your team is concerned about not wanting timeboxes in their work flow, there are alternative Agile frameworks as well.

The **Kanban framework** is a non-time boxed framework. That is the main difference that differentiates it from Scrum. With Kanban, the team can still use the task management board in OpenProject. There may or may not be a Scrum Master or Product Owner either. It is at the team discretion whether they need the administrative support. There is usually a demo to present to stakeholders to get feedback on the team's progress.

Another popular framework option is called **Extreme Programming (XP)** that is focused primarily on planning and adapting to ever changing business requirements. It is unlike the other aforementioned frameworks in that it is required that there is already in place technology that uses automation testing of unit tests and functional tests. XP is grouped into four activities: coding; testing, listening and designing. The framework values communication, simplicity, feedback, courage, respect, rules.

Whichever frameworks you and your team begins adopting, the tools found in OpenProject can help your team achieve successful product deliveries.