

When is SCRUM right? A background

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About

This page draws together some useful resources for project management considering the different approaches and preparing to begin project development.

Usage

Scrum is a framework for developing, delivering, and maintaining products in a complex environment that uses an agile mindset. It was originally developed for software development, but it has now been used to various industries such as research, sales,

marketing, and advanced technologies. It is intended for groups of ten or less people that divide their work into tasks that may be accomplished in a certain amount of time.

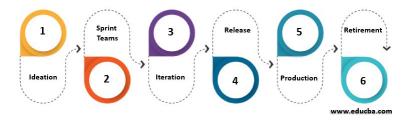
The software development terminology scrum was first used in a 1986 paper by Hirotaka Takeuchi and Ikujiro Nonaka titled "The New New Product Development Game." The research was released in the Harvard Business Review in January 1986. The term comes from rugby, where a scrum is a group of players that form a structure. The authors of the report picked the term scrum because it stresses teamwork.

Key ideas

Scrum is a simple, iterative, and incremental approach for managing large projects. [10] [11] The framework challenges traditional product development assumptions and empowers teams to self-organize by encouraging physical co-location or close online cooperation among all team members, as well as daily face-to-face communication among all team members and disciplines.

Scrum recognises that customers will modify the scope of what they want (commonly referred to as requirements volatility) and that there will be unforeseen obstacles — neither of which are well suited to a predictive or planned approach. Change comes from a multitude of places, but understanding why isn't important: what matters is that it's accepted, embraced, and studied for benefits.

As a result, Scrum takes an empirical, evidence-based approach, accepting that the problem cannot be fully understood or defined up front and instead focusing on how to improve the team's ability to deliver quickly, respond to emerging requirements, and adapt to changing technologies and market conditions.



Before we SCRUM

Sometimes the SCRUM framework is not the best approach for certain projects. It is sensible to consider whether the project you are working on would actually benefit from using this framework, and if the team is at the stage where they can start initiating the development process. The flowchart below explores this in more detail



Alternate methodologies/frameworks are also useful and are explored further in the diagram below

