

Definition of Done

Intro

One of the important Agile principles is “done means DONE” which means that after a portion of work (e.g. User Story or Feature) is completed - the Product is ready to be shipped. The concept of “Definition of Done” (DoD) is used to ensure this principle is kept.

Simply put, DoD is list of criteria that work product should meet to be considered “done”. DoD fixes ambiguity and provides a shared understanding, so everyone in an Agile Team means the same thing when saying that “something is complete”.

Benefits of using DoD are:

- overall improving of the quality of the system,
- preventing future problems and
- not spending the time “tomorrow” on fixing “today’s mistakes”.

In the software development project DoD might exist on several levels:

- Work product level,
- User Story/Feature level,
- Sprint-level and
- Release-level.

However, since recent popularity of “Continuous delivery” and “DevOps” approach, the latter two levels essentially merge with User Story/Feature level.

On the next page I will provide an example of quite generic DoD very similar to the one used in one of my previous projects.

Example of simple DoD

Before Development

1. Final version of User Story and Acceptance Criteria in Iteration Backlog
2. Estimation is reviewed by Product Owner
3. User Story broken down into tasks, they are estimated and put to Agile Board

After Development

1. All design changes are discussed, agreed upon (and if needed - documented)
2. All appropriate Unit tests are added
3. Code review is completed
4. Coding is fully done and local build is green
5. Acceptance Criteria pass on local build
6. All necessary comments are done, coding standards are met
7. All DevOps scripts and environment settings updated
8. All necessary documentation is updated
9. Code is merged to appropriate branch, committed and pushed to CI
10. CI build and all available there tests are green
11. Build correctly deploys to the environment (including DevOps scripts, settings, properties, etc)

After QA

1. All necessary Test Cases/Suites are added/updated
2. All Acceptance Criteria pass on Test environment
3. All manual test cases pass on Test environment
4. All automated tests Integration/Regression/E2E/Performance/Security pass on Test environment
5. All found defects are registered in Issues Tracking System
6. All major defects fixed and build is fully re-tested
7. All necessary documentation is updated
8. User Story is accepted by Product Owner after seeing its demonstration on appropriate environment
9. Full round of testing done on UAT and Pre-production environments including testing of DevOps scripts and properties