Software Development Life Cycle: Product Owner

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Reflecting on my experience as a Product Owner, I recognize the importance of translating stakeholders’ visions into actionable items for the Scrum Team. Conversations with stakeholders are essential for understanding their goals, yet balancing these goals with feasibility requires careful negotiation. I’ve learned that while crowd-sourcing user feedback is valuable for broadening our view, achieving an objective product vision often requires multiple iterations of refining suggestions and aligning goals. The Product Owner’s role is thus to bridge vision and execution, guiding the Scrum Team with clarity and purpose.

I recognize the importance of translating stakeholders’ visions into actionable items for the Scrum Team. Beyond the formality of smiling faces, the job of the Project Owner is to balance desire and feasibility, setting expectations and actionable goals to bring their vision to life. Points scored for the scrum team come from finding concrete objectives from a non-technical audience.

I appreciate the effectiveness of communicating with users to gain insight into the desired attributes, not present in the application. While stakeholders have goals and ambitions, this type of crowd-sourcing can act as an excellent way to widen a subjective view. However, the exercise was short-sighted. Many more iterations between goals, suggestions, and adjustments would be needed to objectify the product from a subjective perspective.

Now the question is, how can I guide the Scrum Team to bring life to this shared vision? Through these meetings, the product owner would certainly cultivate a shared vision for the project. They are the conduit between vision and logic. They now have to means to write Epics and User Stories needed to guide the development teams.

In all, I both appreciate and loathe this role. The Aristotelian vice of friendliness comes to mind in the scenario of baring the weight of public reputation spells obsequiousness. While I have no doubt I could do it in a pinch, I was finding this type of role heathenistic towards my character as it conflicts with my morals and the long-term effect would be self-loathing. Not for me.