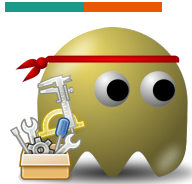# Agile Roles

Agile Team Members – Roles & Responsibilities

The key to successful team building is creating unity while celebrating the individuality of each team member =>
Common purpose supported by unique contributions.

- Team is held responsible for a release, individuals are held accountable to their commitments
- Each team member has one or more roles on a project

Architect

Product Owner (PO)

Program Manager
Engineering Manager
Others

Scrum Master

QA

Developers

Product Manager aka Product Owner (PO)

Role definition

- "CEO" of the product
- Vertical – focus on long and short term product vision of a product line
- Represents customer's interest
- Represents the product to the outside world (Customer)

Product Manager aka Product Owner (PO)

Responsibilities:

- Responsible for market, business case, and competitive analysis
- Prioritizes features for releases based upon expected ROI
- Writes Acceptance Criteria
- Writes user stories

Product Manager aka Product Owner (PO)

A good product owner:

- is resisting the temptation to manage the team. The team may not self-organize in the way you would expect it to. This is especially challenging if some team members request your intervention with issues the team should sort out for itself.
- is resisting the temptation to add more work
- Being willing to make hard choices during a planning meeting

Program Manager

On a Scrum team, Program Managers usually perform both Program Manager & Scrum Master roles unless another team member is assigned to be Scrum Master

Role definition

- A rational voice to solve problems and make decisions
- Impartial – not biased to Product, nor to Engineering, nor any other group

Program Manager

- Manages planning process
- Manages overall program schedule
- Drives multiple releases/projects
- Facilitates Release Planning & Retrospective
- Provides access to tools and people
- Owns all action items for the project until he/she finds the right owner
- Owns reporting on project status, to all directions
- Responsible for risk assessment & mitigation
- Educates/Enforces agreed upon processes & methodology rules
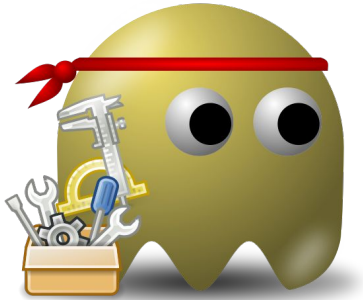- Educates/Enforces roles and responsibilities

Scrum Master responsibilities

- Manages 1 sprint at a time
- Facilitates Sprint Planning, Review & Retrospective
- Finds and works to remove roadblocks
- Helps to motivate the team and keep them excited
- Protects team from outside distractions
- Facilitates communication between roles for every aspect of the project
- Responsible for keeping release/project information consolidated, organized and up to date
- Drives the cross-functional team at all levels
- Responsible for throughput (team velocity)
- Drives the execution of sprint items

Architect

Role definition

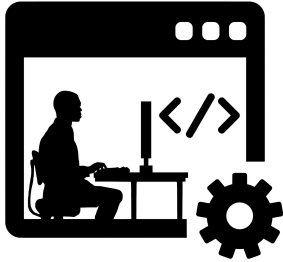- Leads the technical direction of overall system

Architect

Responsibilities

- Responsible for end-to-end cross functional system design and communication
- Works with the PM to group features based upon the Architectural Elements which support them, an influence on priorities
- Tests Architectural Elements with executable and testable design (abstract interfaces, aka the contract)
- Facilitates technical decision; incorporates feedback and emergent patterns from the team back in to the overall design
- Produces alternate Design Concepts & detailed approach
- Ensures the Design goals – Performance, Modularity, Reliability, Maintainability, Reusability, Internationalization and Accessibility – are met
- Ensures technical cohesion and helps write the technical contract in interfaces and other abstract objects and data entities
- Leads design review & provides feedback

Product Developer

Role definition

- Responsible for creation of product

Product Developer

Responsibilities

- Estimates size of backlog items
- Translation of backlog items into engineering design and logical units of work (tasks)
- Evaluation of technical feasibility
- Implementation of backlog items
- Writes unit tests first
- Writes and verifies code which adheres to the acceptance criteria

QA

Role definition

- Prevents defects from entering the system, as opposed to finding them at the end

QA

Responsibilities

- Writes test plans which enforce the acceptance criteria of features
- Keeps all test plans and cases updated to changing requirements
- Continually integrates the code base with automated builds and functional-level regression tests
- Notifies when production is blocked due to errors in development
- Measuring Quality
- Defining Quality
- Improving Quality
- Enforces QA Best Practices
- Provides visibility into end-to-end product quality

Product Manager vs Program Manager

Product Manager

- owns the **decisions** on the project tradeoffs

- owns the product **vision**: overall and per-project

Program Manager

- owns the **execution** of the project based on those tradeoffs
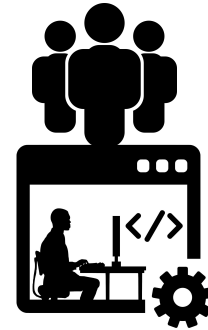
- owns the **execution** of the vision for each project

Scrum Roles

Product Owner (PO)

Scrum Master

Team