*Kanban is one of the most popular Lean workflow management methods for defining, managing, and improving services that deliver knowledge work. It helps you visualize work, maximize efficiency, and improve continuously. The approach represents a pull system. This means that production is based on customer demand rather than the standard push practice of producing goods and pushing them to the market.*

*The 6 Core Kanban Principles –*

* *Start with what you do now: Kanban is about continuous improvement, but it starts with an understanding of the current processes and workflows.*
* *Agree to pursue incremental, evolutionary change: Rather than attempting a large-scale transformation all at once, Kanban advocates for small, incremental changes.*
* *Encourage acts of leadership at all levels: Kanban is not just for managers or team leads but for everyone involved in the work.*
* *Focus on customer needs and expectations: Kanban promotes understanding the needs and expectations of your customers to elevate the quality of the provided services.*
* *Manage the work, not the workers: Kanban respects the existing roles and responsibilities of team members and empowers people’s abilities to self-organize around the work.*
* *Regularly review the network of services: Kanban encourages collaboration and encourages team members to share their observations, ideas, and feedback for improving the work.*

*What Are the Kanban Practices?*

*For a successful Kanban implementation, the method relies on six essential practices:*

* *Visualizing the workflow: Creating a visual representation of the workflow helps to identify bottlenecks.*
* *Limiting work in progress: Limiting the amount of work in progress helps to prevent multitasking and improve focus on completing one task at a time.*
* *Managing flow: Kanban aims to help in optimizing flow which can be achieved by monitoring flow metrics.*
* *Making process policies explicit: Defining and communicating process policies clearly helps to ensure that everyone understands how work is supposed to be done.*
* *Implementing feedback loops: Kanban emphasizes the importance of getting feedback from customers, stakeholders, and team members to identify areas for improvement.*
* *Improving collaboratively: Kanban is a continuous improvement process that encourages collaboration and experimentation to identify and solve problems.*

*Top 6 Benefits of Kanban –*

* *Increased visibility of the flow*
* *Improved delivery speed*
* *Alignment between goals and execution*
* *Improved predictability*
* *Improved dependencies management*
* *Increased customer satisfaction*

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Kanban** | **Scrum** |
| Nature | Kanban is an adaptive method | Scrum is a prescriptive framework |
| Principles | 1. Start with what you do now  2. Agree to pursue evolutionary change  3. Encourage acts of leadership at all levels  4. Focus on customer’s needs  5. Manage the work  6. Regularly review the network of services | 1. Empiricism  2. Transparency  3. Inspection  4. Adaptation |
| Cadences | - Team-level cadences  - Service-oriented cadences | - Sprint with a fixed length  - Sprint planning  - Daily Scrum  - Sprint Review  - Sprint Retrospective |
| Roles | - Service Delivery Manager\*  - Service Request Manager\*  (\*no pre-defined roles are required) | - Product Owner  - Scrum Master  - Development Team |
| Metrics | - Cycle Time  - Throughput  - Work In Progress | - Velocity  - Planned Capacity |

| ***Methodology*** | ***Kanban*** | ***Scrum*** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***Roles*** | *No defined roles* | *Scrum master, product owner, and development team* |
| ***Delivery cycle*** | *Continuous* | *Sprint cycle lasts one to four weeks* |
| ***Change policy*** | *Can be incorporated any time* | *Generally, not made during sprint* |
| ***Artifacts*** | *Kanban board* | *Product backlog, sprint backlog, product increments* |
| ***Tools*** | *Jira Software, Kanbanize, SwiftKanban, Trello, Asana* | *Jira Software, Axosoft, VivifyScrum, Targetprocess* |
| ***Key concepts or pillars*** | *Effective, efficient, predictable* | *Transparency, adaptation, inspection* |

***Kanban vs. Agile***