



Agile Explorers



Choo! Choo!

TVA's First Agile Release Train Leaves the Station



Last Thursday and Friday, a [Release Planning](#) event was hosted at the Chattanooga Convention Center with over 100 participants from IT and TVA. The goal was to plan the next 10 weeks' worth of work associated with the Operations SBU and IT's Operations Solution Delivery.

Preparations for the event had been ongoing for over a month with participants attending [Leading Safe](#) and/or [ScrumXP for Teams](#) training sessions. Besides training, they had also been working to identify, categorize, estimate and prioritize all potential work that could be completed during the time period. A special thanks to all of our business partners that attended -- they gave us greater insight into their business needs and provided perspective on how IT contributes to TVA's vision.

One last thing: besides successfully meeting the event's primary goal, it also inspired a team chant that got everyone out of his or her seats. [Take a look!](#) (and [lyrics](#))

Frequently Used Terms

[Agile Release Train](#) - The metaphorical representation of a collection of Agile teams that work together to deliver business value on a reliable schedule.

[Sprint](#) – Used in [Scrum](#) to represents consistent time duration (a 'time-box') where a potentially releasable product increment is created. Traditionally, the sprint time-box length was 1 calendar month. To further reduce the potential for change and inherent higher risk and complexity, a shorter sprint time-box has become commonplace.

[Sprint Planning](#) – Used by the team and business partner to determine what will be delivered during the next Sprint and how that work would be done. Estimates on level of effort are used to help guide those decisions. Additionally, other individuals can be included in the planning to share applicable technical or domain advice.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is there going to be Knoxville-based training?

Yes, that is the plan. As the training is oriented toward teams and release trains, we are continuing to look for an opportunity where majorities of attendees do not have to travel for multi-day classes.

Where can I learn more?

[These](#) are recommended for pre-class prep.

Why has been there been no coffee?

[I](#) take full responsibility for the decision. Although a good number of folks drink coffee in the morning (myself included), some do not (e.g. tea, juice). It is inherently difficult to predict how much of each type of beverage would be consumed and commonly results in a large amount of expense and subsequent waste. Multiply this by the number of class days and it adds up fast. Be prepared - bring your own.