

SCRUM MASTER ESSENTIALS

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Scrum continues to be the most popular Agile approach, with 66% of Agile teams identifying it as the method they follow according to the [15th State of Agile Report](#). As Agile adoption itself is now mainstream, and with Scrum taking the biggest chunk of an ever expanding Agile pie, the role of the scrum master is more in demand than ever. But what does it truly take to be a good scrum master?

In this eGuide

8 Winning Qualities of a Scrum Master

A good leader keeps everything in order. In this fast-paced era where agile methodologies have become a more often used framework, a good scrum master is what is needed. But what makes a good scrum master?

3 Mistakes Teams Make When Choosing a Scrum Master

One big cause of agile project failure is choosing the wrong person to be your scrum master. While a bad scrum master is a problem for any team, it is particularly bad for teams new to agile, as the people on the team won't know they are being led down the wrong path. Let's review three mistakes organizations make when choosing scrum masters.

A Scrum Master's Superpower of Observation in Virtual Teams

Scrum Masters rely on observational skills, but does that mean we only use vision? What happens when we are all remote? Can we leverage other senses to "observe" how teams are surviving (or thriving)? We may not be able to sit together with our team for a long time, and it may never be the same due to the long-term effects of the coronavirus. What skills might we adapt or create for virtual teams? And, how can we still reflect back on the observations so the team can decide how to improve?

Retrospectives Without Action Items Mean Nothing Gets Done

The point of a retrospective is not just to complain about things we don't like or to congratulate ourselves on the end of a sprint. The goal is to identify opportunities to improve. Sometimes that is stopping bad practices and other times that is doing more of a good practice. Either way, in order to improve you need to make changes. In order to make changes someone has to actually do something.

Daily Standup Purpose: It's All About Flow, Not Status

The Daily Standup (DSU) is a key ceremony in the Scrum Framework. When run effectively, it can ensure the Scrum team focuses on what's important to meet the Sprint goal and commitment. When DSUs serve only as a status meeting, the value of the ceremony is lost.

How Testers Can Collaborate with the Scrum Master

Those in testing roles help build quality into the process and product early, so they're in a good position to collaborate with the scrum master to improve agile processes. We will review some ways testers can partner with, support, and assist the scrum master—and the rest of the team.

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8 Winning Qualities of a Scrum Master

By Dan Martin

A good leader keeps everything in order. In this fast-paced era where agile methodologies have become a more often used framework, a good scrum master is what is needed. But what makes a good scrum master?

A scrum master is responsible for making sure the scrum process is followed and that the team adheres to the rules and practices. A scrum master also coaches the team to improve and eventually eliminate impediments. With so much responsibility, a scrum master must possess winning qualities to perform the required duties. Here are the eight winning qualities of a scrum master.

1 Good Communication

Communication is always a key for a scrum master and is especially important in an organization first adapting the scrum framework. A scrum master should be exceptional in communication—both in verbal or written forms. He will do a lot of back and forth coordination with managers who he is reporting to down to team members in each process to make sure that scrum practices are followed.

Scrum communication isn't about giving orders to team members either. A scrum master must be able to carefully listen and comprehend when his members report on progress and blockers. Most of the time problems are raised to scrum masters for resolution. If one does not know how to listen and comprehend what the problem is, it is difficult to arrive at the right solution.

2 Responsible

A scrum master is often the representative of the team to management and other teams. A good one should be able to stand

up for them when something is needed or there is a crisis. The responsibility entrusted to the scrum master does not come with power. Their responsibility is to guide the team into the adoption of the scrum process and practice it. The advantage of being a responsible scrum master is you gain your members' trust. Once the scrum master has established that, members will listen more and thus commit fewer mistakes and will contribute more to the success of the team.

3 Meticulous

A scrum master has to be meticulous and have great attention to detail. Why? Because it is her responsibility to come up with ways and strategies on how to properly implement solutions to problems. The level of attention may vary depending on the difficulty of the problem.

4 Multitasker

A scrum master should be able to do multiple tasks at the same time even if it means doing tasks that he is not used to. However, a good one should be able to quickly adapt to keep everything according to schedule, thus he must be a multi-tasker. Problems and issues can occur when least expected, and more often than not, all at the same time.

Part of being a multitasker is being resourceful. To be able to reduce, if not eliminate impediments, he should be able to find quick ways to solve problems even with little to no resources. He should be able to take whatever it is around and look for clever ways to address the situation at hand. The scrum master should be able to quickly change gears when bombarded with such situations.