

Executive Overview: Delivery of Business Solutions using Agile

Course Summary

Description

Today, many organizations are finding themselves leading Agile teams - only to find that the tools and techniques applied when using a traditional project management approach no longer work as effectively or at all. In order to do more than survive in this iterative development environment, today's leadership must employ additional project management and business analysis tools and techniques to effectively lead their teams and deliver their projects.

This course will explore what an organization needs to know to successfully transition to Agile. Scrum is an incremental, iterative Agile framework for project management and software development - where requirements and solutions evolve through collaboration between self-organizing cross-functional teams. This disciplined project management process involves:

- A leadership philosophy that encourages teamwork, self-organization and accountability
- A set of engineering best practices intended to allow for rapid delivery of high-quality software
- A business approach that aligns development with customer needs and company goals

Participants will learn what it takes to manage an Agile Scrum framework. Your role in an agile project will look much different as you form and coach a self-directed team, facilitate continuous collaboration with your clients, manage and deliver business value to your clients early and regularly throughout the project.

Objectives

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- The Scrum Framework and Roles
- The Agile Lifecycle
- The Product Backlog and Sprint Performance
- Waterfall vs. Agile
- Establishing the Right Team
- Understanding the paradigm shift of integrating Agile into your organization
- Understanding the importance, value, and role of executive and senior level management in the establishment and sustainment of Agile within your organizations

Topics

- Introduction – Fundamentals of Agile
- Assembling the team – Scrum Roles
- Define the Product and Project Vision
- Agile Tools and Techniques
- Estimating and Prioritizing Effort
- The Sprint Retrospective
- Using a pilot project to successfully transition to Agile
- Additional Information

Audience

This course is designed for executives, senior managers, and project managers.

Prerequisites

No prerequisites - This course is suitable for executives and senior-level management who are interested in learning more about Agile. Having an understanding of project management and business processes is helpful and recommended.

Duration

One day

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Course Outline

I. Introduction – Fundamentals of Agile

- A. What is Agile?
- B. The Agile Manifesto
- C. Waterfall vs. Agile
- D. What is Scrum?
- E. The Scrum lifecycle, roles, and framework
- F. Exercise: Waterfall vs. Agile Simulation

II. Assembling the team – Scrum Roles

- A. Committed vs. non-committed team members
- B. Who makes the best Product Owner?
- C. The Scrum Master
- D. The Scrum Team

III. Define the Product and Project Vision

- A. The Product Vision
- B. Defining scope using the Product Backlog
- C. Planning releases
- D. Prioritizing releases
- E. Establishing the timeboxes
- F. Timebox considerations
- G. Defining the high-level (course-grain) plan

IV. Agile Tools and Techniques

- A. The Sprint
- B. The Sprint goal
- C. The Sprint Backlog
- D. Managing the Sprint Backlog
- E. The Burn Down Chart
- F. The Team's Velocity
- G. The Daily Scrum Meeting
- H. The Scrum Taskboard

V. Estimating and Prioritizing Effort

- A. What is a User Story?
- B. Establishing acceptance criteria
- C. Estimating effort using User Stories
- D. Creating a Task List
- E. Using Planning Poker to discover effort
- F. Estimating effort (fine-grain)
- G. Prioritizing User Stories
- H. Handling issues at the Daily Scrum Meeting
- I. Scrum of Scrums – for large projects

VI. The Sprint Retrospective

- A. Definition of Done
- B. Gaining customer acceptance
- C. The Sprint Retrospective

VII. Using a pilot project to successfully transition to Agile

- A. Characteristics of a successful pilot project
- B. Properly selecting the team
- C. Benefits of using a ScrumMaster as a coach/mentor
- D. Measuring the results of the project
- E. Lessons learned – taking corrective actions (if necessary) before widespread rollout
- F. How can Business Leaders help with the transition to Agile?
- G. Exercise: Challenges with adopting Agile into your organization

VIII. Additional Information

- A. Useful books and links on Agile