Writing Product Backlog Items

Course Summary

Description

This is an advanced continuing education course offered through Scrum Alliance, and it is considered a complementary addition to the Scrum Alliance Certified Scrum Product Owner (CSPO) training classes. Through interactive exercises, this workshop will provide insight into technical Agile approaches that experts commonly use for crafting quick, effective and appropriate PBI's.

In successfully completing this workshop you will also earn:
- 7 Scrum Alliance SEUs
- Digital access to all materials and handouts
- Free Agile Advice ebook, estimation cards, and more

Take some of the mystery out of Agility by experiencing in a hands-on nine exercise workshop on how to quickly write effective Product Backlog Items (PBIs) using industry recognized practices, tools, and techniques.

Using a cumulative scenario, this workshop explores how PBI's may be written and refined 'just in time' and made appropriately fit for consumption by an Agile team.

Through eight cumulative hands -on exercises, this continuing education class will provide practical experience in industry recognized techniques and practices for crafting and refining Product Backlog Items. This workshop will be very interactive, with group activities, discussion, and problem solving sessions. Unlike lecture style classes that can be dry and purely theoretical, this course is focused more on how these skills are applied practically in writing good user stories.

Objectives

After taking this course, students will be able to understand:
- How to craft, define and set expectations for what constitutes an effective Product Backlog Item (PBI)
- The structure, content and format of User Stories and Acceptance Criteria
- Some common tools and techniques for crafting effective PBI's including: the INVEST Model and Splitting Patterns.
- Key terminology and expectations associated with the Product Backlog and Product Backlog Items.
- How to empower Scrum teams through Product Backlog Items that resonate with them
- At least six alternatives to the traditional User Story format and where these may be more appropriate

Topics

- Getting Started
- User Story Fundamentals

- Tools and Techniques
- Next Steps

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Course Summary (cont'd)

Audience

This course is geared primarily for Product Owners or those who will be writing or refining Product Backlog items. Registration is open to anyone, but registrants must have prerequisite knowledge and experience using Scrum.

Prerequisites

In order to focus on the topic, teaching the fundamentals of Agile including the philosophy, frameworks and mindset is out of scope for this workshop. It is therefore recommended that attendees be familiar with Agile practices before attending this workshop.

Prerequisites include:
- Scrum certification (Scrum Alliance CSM, CSPO or industry equivalent), OR
- At least 6 months as a Product Owner on a Scrum team.

Duration

One day

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Course Outline

I. Getting Started
   A. About This Workshop
   B. Defining Needs -- Overview of Product Backlog Items

II. User Story Fundamentals
   A. Structure and Format
   B. Acceptance Criteria

III. Tools and Techniques
   A. The INVEST Model (sourced from XP)
   B. Patterns for Splitting (sourced from Richard Lawrence)
   C. Great Practices to Consider

IV. Next Steps
   A. What Can You Do Today?
   B. Alternatives to Traditional User Stories