

Six Myths About Agile Scrum

What is Agile Scrum?

Agile is a term meaning flexibility and change of direction. Agile is a broad term applied to project management and not unique to software development. Scrum is the most commonly used method to manage agile projects in a time-boxed, iterative, incremental fashion featuring user feedback loops to be responsive to change.

Scrum Myths

- *Agile Scrum is Something New.* This is False. The origins of Agile Project Management dates back to the 1950s with the Lean manufacturing” approach used in Japan for product development (most notably Toyota). The Principles and values of Agile Scrum can be traced back to the 14 points outlined by W. Edwards Deming in his book “Out of the Crisis” in 1982 emphasizing continuous process improvement with focus on user feedback to create business value.
- *Agile Scrum Eliminates Documentation.* This is False. All documentation requirements are not eliminated in Agile and transformations to Agile Scrum involve collaboration with business or government leadership to determine what level and what types of documentation will be required. (For example, in regulated environments (CMMI, IEEE, Military Standards), analysis with leadership needs to be done to determine what documentation needs to be captured to remain compliant.
- *Agile Scrum Involves no Plan.* This is False. Agile Scrum involves continuous planning and re-planning in order to adapt to change from user feedback provided by the project’s designated Product Owner throughout an Agile Scrum iteration (Sprint cycle).
- *Agile Scrum is the Only Method Used to Manage Agile Projects.* This is False. Scrum is only one method applied to Agile Project Management and while being the most common, there also hybrid methods (ex, Rational Unified). Hybrid Agile methods used in software development usually have a mix of both Waterfall and Agile approaches.
- *Agile Scrum Products are Immediately Deployed.* This is False. Agile Scrum timelines are typically planned within thirty days and while the goal for most products is to be shipped or deployed, the primary goal is to come out of the Scrum iteration (Sprint) with a “potentially shippable product”.
- *Agile Scrum Eliminates Testing and Quality Assurance (QA).* This is False. Testing and Evaluation is built into Agile Scrum Sprint cycles from the very beginning and continuously conducted with input from the Product Owner in order to focus on finding and responding to product issues earlier rather than later.

How can you learn more?

Contact us at info@valytics.com to learn more about Agile Scrum or how Valytics’ full service independent test capabilities can help your organization.