7 Things BA's need to know about agile

1. agile is not a methodology

Agile is a mindset that focuses on **learning** and **maximizing outcome with minimum output**

To adopt an agile mindset, continuously ask yourself these questions and act according to the answers:

- Do we understand the outcome we're trying to deliver?
- How can we understand that outcome better?
- Will this help us deliver that outcome?

- Are there things we aren't sure about?
- What can we do to learn about those things we aren't sure about?

2. There's more to agile than just Scrum

Scrum, Kanban, XP, and SAFe are frameworks that your team can use to influence your specific methodology. Your team creates its own methodology: The set of conventions your team agrees to follow

To decide which framework(s) to use:

Scrum may be helpful when…
- you need to focus on a small group of items in a short period of time
- you need to break a big initiative up into small chunks to get rapid feedback

Kanban may be helpful when…
- work arrives frequently and unpredictably
- each item is independent, and you don't want to wait to deploy

Good software engineering practices (**XP**) are always a good idea.

3. Analysis is still relevant

How to add value with analysis:

- Perform small bits of analysis throughout the effort
- Pass on what you have learned to the team
- Make sure timely, informed decisions get made

4. agile alone will not get you better faster cheaper

Customer Facing
Product Management
- What do our customers need?
- What will satisfy those needs?
- Will our customers buy/use it?

Internal Facing
Portfolio Management
- How much of this solution do we need to deliver?
- How does this align with our strategy?

5. Writing and slicing user stories is not the whole story

How to make proper use of user stories:

- Stories are reminders
- Use acceptance criteria, models, and examples to describe user stories
- Split stories to identify what not to build
- Stories are a planning tool
- Epics are for customers. Stories are for the team.

6. BA's can be product owners
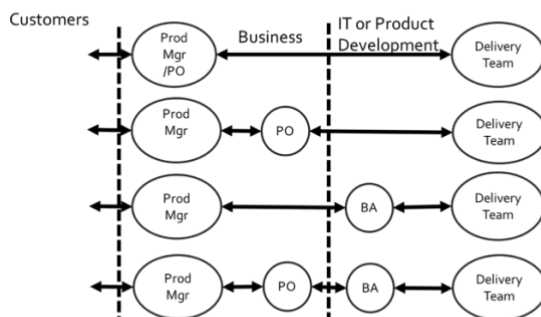
What product owners do

- Focus on outcome over output
- Build shared understanding
- Make sure decisions get made

How product owners use analysis techniques

- Elicitation techniques to uncover needs
- Process flows to build shared understanding
- Facilitate discussions to make sure decisions get made
- Problem statement to describe desired outcome
- Mockups to build shared understanding
- Split stories to understand them better

7. BA's don't have to be product owners

Common Product Ownership models

Source: Todd Little

How to figure out what role best fits you

- Customer facing or internal facing?
- Can you make decisions?
- Work better with customers or team?
- Are you comfortable with uncertainty?
- Willing to learn techniques outside of analysis?
- What's the org structure?

If you remember nothing else...

- When you focus on learning and value, you have an agile mindset
- Apply the analysis skills you already know
- The right role is the one that fits your interest and experience

For More Information

Session Materials Online: https://www.kbp.media/go/atx-badd
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