The Agile BA:
For an Agile team... you complete me!

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Myths and Rumors
Rumor: Cracking your knuckles leads to arthritis.

FALSE!
Rumor: A ducks quack doesn’t echo.

FALSE!
Rumor: Sharks don’t get cancer.

FALSE!
Rumor: Thomas Crapper invented the toilet!

FALSE!
Agile Myths and Rumors

Agile teams don’t document anything!

Anything and everything waterfall is bad!

The Business Analyst has no role on an Agile team!
Define Agile

Agile Development

Next Iteration

No

Yes

Develop Functionality N
Integrate and Test
Demo Release
Integrate and Test
Client’s Feedback
Make Changes
System Testing
All Functionalities Complete?

Develop Functionality 2
Integrate and Test
Develop Functionality 1
Integrate and Test

Photo from umsl.edu/
Define Agile

• Quick adaptation to change
• Delivery of business value (customer needs)
• Dedication to collaboration
• Highly visible body of work
• Simplicity
• Working daily with the business
• Continuous Improvement
“The Business Analyst is an agent of change. Business Analysis is a disciplined approach for introducing and managing change to organizations...”

“...enabling change in an organizational context, by defining needs and recommending solutions that deliver value to stakeholders.”

“...everything from defining strategy, to creating the enterprise architecture, to taking a leadership role by defining the goals and requirements for programs and projects or supporting continuous improvement in its technology and processes.”
Define a BA
...according to Bob

A role derived out of sheer necessity and in some cases desperation. In many varied situations you can pull from it a wide array of tools which will get the job done when you need it most. It’s a versatile, useful, multidimensional asset; a must have for those who dare to brave the unknown *that sits at the intersection of Business Ave and IT Blvd.*
How will Agile improve my collaboration on business requirements?

If there is a product owner, why am I here?

Where’s the documentation?!

How can I provide the most business value?

I’ve always been waterfall, now what?

Is there any professional advancement in an Agile BA role?

http://socialmediacombo.net/
If there is a product owner, why am I here?
BA’s are NOT an automatic “get out of engagement free” card!!

GET OUT OF IT ENGAGEMENT FREE!!

Congrats...because you have a great BA you don’t need to talk to anyone in IT.
If there is a product owner, why am I here?

Chart by Jeff Gothelf
How will Agile improve my collaboration on (and elicitation of) business requirements?

The Agile Reality:

Agile, at its very core, is setup to require constant collaboration on what we consider ‘done’, as opposed to defining ‘done’ in a vacuum months before we even get started. Beyond that, a primary focus of the team is value delivered and adaptation to changing business needs.
How will Agile improve my collaboration on business requirements?
How will Agile improve my collaboration on business requirements?

structured conversations w/ the 7 product dimensions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>User</th>
<th>Interface</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Data</th>
<th>Control</th>
<th>Environment</th>
<th>Quality Attribute</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Users interact with the product</td>
<td>The product connects to users, systems, and devices</td>
<td>The product provides capabilities for users</td>
<td>The product includes a repository of data and useful information</td>
<td>The product enforces constraints</td>
<td>The product conforms to physical properties and technology platforms</td>
<td>The product has certain properties that qualify its operation and development</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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How will Agile improve my collaboration on business requirements?

**slice for value**

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Conduct structured conversations
Use the 7 Product Dimensions
Identify high-value product options
Assemble cohesive combinations

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Where’s the documentation?

The Agile Reality:

Some teams consider eliminating documentation in the name of Agile, but are paying for it downstream during production handoff, compliance reviews and remediation efforts.
What is “lean” documentation?

Definition: *Containing little or no fat.*

Alternative Definition: *lacking richness, sufficiency, or productiveness.*

http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/lean

Traditionally: “Focus is on what the requirements document said. In other words, output (Artifact) is a well written thorough requirements document.”

In Agile: “Focus is on the functionality of the developed software. In other words, output (Artifact) is the software that meets the business needs.”

The best Agile documentation is based on collaboration with our internal and external customers to determine what is considered valuable and necessary.

Agile documentation according to Bob
The team creates documentation...

GET OUT OF DOCUMENTATION!

Congrats...because you have a great BA you don’t need to take your eyes off IT. DOCUMENT ANYMORE!
I’ve always done Waterfall... is that bad?

The Agile Reality:

Waterfall processes, stage gates and governance are generally frowned upon by Agile teams. A Business Analyst coming from a strict Waterfall environment may be perceived by an Agile team as a possible bottleneck. Why?
I’ve always done Waterfall... is that bad?
It’s simply a thin slice
How can I provide the most business value?

The Agile Reality:

Where do we begin?
Business to IT Translation

Requirements Gathering

Idea Generator

Quality Re-Verification
The Business

The Agile BA

IT

Business
Is there any professional advancement in an Agile BA role?

The Agile Reality:

Requirements Collaboration
Translation to Business and IT
Lean Artifacts

Quality Re-Assurance
Innovation Opportunities
Bridging the Gap
Is This You?

Can it be?

Business to IT Translation

Requirements Collaboration

Bridging the Gap

Idea Generator

Professional Opportunity

Quality Verification

YOUR CAREER
The Agile BA
Robert Woods
Agile Coach & Delivery Manager

Thank You

Questions?

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