Government Product Owner
What to expect when they’re expecting
The Telephone Game

Rules

1. Do not ask a person to repeat the phrase.
2. Do not purposely communicate the wrong phrase as doing so would ruin the fun.
Hello
my name is

What role are you playing?

Agile experience?
1. What is agile?
2. I heard of it
3. I read about it
4. I practice it
5. I can teach it
Passionate about enabling and sustaining enterprise agility with a focus on organizational development.

Managing Partner with ReadyforAgile, an enterprise assessment analytics tool for scaling agility.

Trainer & Learning Facilitator with SparkAgility

Organizer & Learning Facilitator at Agile NOVA

ICAgile Member Trainer

Certified Trainer in Training from the BACK of the Room (An approach to Accelerated Learning)

Linkedin.com/in/selleithy

A pragmatic, non-prescriptive kaizen enabler with a passion for leveraging Agile practices to consistently deliver exceptional results, great products and “delighted customers” to evolving organizations.


Agile Community: AgileDC (AgileDC.org) Organizing Board Member, Agile 2013-14 Participant, Agile Meetup junkie, Coaching Clinic Volunteer, ICAgile Training Partner, SAFe Trainer
Session Outline

- What is the product owner role?
- Is it different in the federal space and the commercial space? What are the challenges that the PO face?
- Group exercise - If we were to define a PO persona, what would it look like?
- Would a conventional PO role work in the government? What are the limitations?
- Group exercise - What could be changed for it work in the government?
- How would the PO role apply in the government settings?
- Group exercise - Does the organizational structure affect the PO role?
- Q&A
How it all started?

Gulf of Evaluation

IKIWISI (I’ll know it when I see it)
What is the product owner role?
The Product Owner is the **sole** person responsible for managing the Product Backlog.

(Source: The Scrum Guide. Scrum.org)
What does “managing the backlog” entail?

**Product Owner**

The **Product Owner** is responsible for maximizing the value of the product and the work of the Development Team.

- **Clearly expressing** Product Backlog items
- **Prioritize** Product Backlog items
- **Ensure business value** is being delivered
- **Ensure** Backlog is **visible, transparent**, and **clear to all**
- Ensuring the Team **understands items** in the Backlog to the level needed
Product Owner role evolved

Functional

Matrix

Agile
Government Product Owner
Government Product Owner
Qualities of a Product Owner
What do we like to think of PO?

What REALITY looks like?
Where do Product Owners come from?

- Business Stakeholders
- Program Managers
- Project Managers
- Subject Matter Experts
- End Users
- System Owners
What are the challenges Product Owners face?
What are the **top 3 challenges** facing Product Owners at your organization?
Is the **Product Owner** role different?
How does the Product Owner role apply in the government settings?
From “Superhero” Product Owner to Value Team
What are Value Teams?

A **team** that has everyone and everything they need to **identify**, **prioritize** and **slice business value increments**, and to **make decisions** about functionality and prepare the information needed by the development team(s) to **deliver** a feature/story.

Source: Dr. Ahmed Sidky
Organizational Structure (Agile)

Business Stakeholders

- Users/Customers
- Subject Matter Experts
- Governance

The Delivery Team (aka the Development Team)

- Scrum Master
- Business Analysts
- Project Managers
- Testers
- Developers
- Product Owner

IT
The Value Team evolved

The Value Team

Users/Customers
SMEs
Governance

The Delivery Team (aka the Development Team)

Project Managers
Business Analysts
Developers
Testers

Source: Dr. Ahmed Sidky
Possible Value Team Configuration

Value Team Facilitator (Previously known as Product Owner)

The Value Team

The Delivery Team

Delivery Team Facilitator

Users/Customers
SMEs
Governance
Project Managers
Business Analysts
Developers
Testers

Source: Dr. Ahmed Sidky
Another possible configuration

The Value Team

Value Team Facilitator [Product Owner - SCRUM]

The Delivery Team

Delivery Team Facilitator [SCRUM]

Users/Customers
SMEs
Governance
Project Managers
Business Analysts
Developers
Testers
Support

Sponsor?

Source: Dr. Ahmed Sidky
Design your Value Team

• Who needs to be on your value team?
• What would need to change to support the Value Team at your organization?
What does Facilitation got to do with Value Teams?

Value Team Facilitator (Previously known as Product Owner)

The Value Team

The Delivery Team

Delivery Team Facilitator

Users/Customers  SMEs  Governance  Project Managers  Business Analysts  Developers  Testers  Support

Source: Dr. Ahmed Sidky
What is Facilitation?

**Facilitation** is the art of leading people through processes toward agreed-upon outcomes in a manner that encourages participation, ownership and creativity of all involved.

- The Grove Consultants International
What would make Value Teams successful?

- Ownership of vision
- Facilitation
- Responsibility
Tweetable takeaways!

• Product Ownership over Product owners
• Value Teams will work when decision makers or their representatives are part of it
• Facilitation is as important to Value teams as oil is to an engine.

#agile2015 #GovyPO #ValueTeams

~@selleithy @agilefairy
Continue the conversation

• Agile coaches clinic
  • outside of Potomac
• Use #GovyPO #ValueTeams #Agile2015
• Join Agile meetups
  • Agile DC Organizational Agility Practitioners
  • Agile NOVA