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5 signs your agile development process needs help

(and how to remedy!)

Michał Rączka
Product Owner, Hull

WHO AM I?

Hi, I'm Michał Rączka. I'm a product owner at Hull.

- 10+ years experience in product management, engineering, and scrum development
- Responsible for maximizing development efforts for the Hull customer data platform
- Passionate about the creative process and finding simple patterns in a complex world
- Proud father and husband

This talk today might help you...

- If you are a product manager or owner
- If your company runs an agile or scrum development process
- If your company is still fairly early-stage in its maturity

Your dev team says they can't start until they have more detailed specs.

WHAT MIGHT BE HAPPENING:

- Dev team feeling "burned" by past experiences
- Lack of trust in provided requirements and criteria
- Spec difficulty starts to drive order of work, not value

THE REMEDY:

- Criteria and requirements must be clear and reliable
- Shorter feedback loops
- Spike stories

Agile is about empowering development teams and striking the right balance between requirements that are too detailed and ones that are incomplete.

Business stakeholders have suggested more upfront planning.

two

WHAT MIGHT BE HAPPENING:

- Issues may be appearing late in the delivery cycle
- Lack of timely communication
- Business stakeholders feel out-of-the-loop...or they feel you've lost control

THE REMEDY:

- Talk more about risks
- Be in touch early, and often
- Don't miss stand-ups
- Demos and reviews help uncover problems and misalignment

Agile is about getting to a planning sweet spot when the process is the most efficient for every involved party, doing it too early is waste of time, doing it too late is chaos

You, as the product owner, are the only one updating the backlog.

three

WHAT MIGHT BE HAPPENING:

- Purpose of the backlog is not mutually understood by everyone
- Backlog is perceived as defined and not actionable
- There is no space to discuss updates

THE REMEDY:

- Tooling adjustments
- High-level reporting for stakeholders
- Additional guidance for developers

In Agile, the backlog is a tool to communicate between different actors and stakeholders of the software development process.

Sprint planning involves you telling developers what to work on.

four

WHAT MIGHT BE HAPPENING:

- Developers may not understand stories
- Not enough time given to refine and work on stories prior to sprint planning
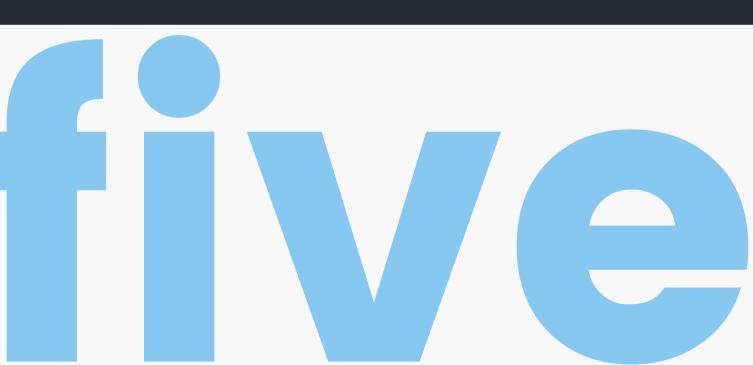- Last minute changes are handled poorly

THE REMEDY:

- Find enough time for backlog refinement
- Be open to changing the sprint schedule

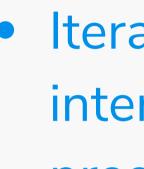Agile is about the collective understanding of each story, its goals, and its requirements.

You only hear about problems and issues that arise after your product feature has shipped.

five

WHAT MIGHT BE HAPPENING:

- Product or feature was built "in a vacuum"
- Work was done disconnected from actual users
- No demos and reviews during the development process
- As a result, only half of the picture is seen

THE REMEDY:

- Iteration with close customers, internal stakeholders, and even prospects
- Product usage analytics

Agile is about reflection and continuous improvement. Getting the entire picture (good and bad) helps the team and learn from the experience and improve.

"*At regular intervals, the team reflects on how to become more effective, then tunes and adjusts its behavior accordingly.*"

Manifesto for Agile Software Development

Thank you!

GET IN TOUCH:

- Email me at michal@hull.io
- Connect on LinkedIn
- Learn more about Hull at hull.io