Agile Simulation for Managers

Understand the benefits of an agile approach, and how to effectively form, manage and support your agile teams.

Delivery: On-site
Duration: 0.5 – 1 day, depending on audience
Approach: Facilitated Simulation with Hands On Exercises
Level: Basic

Understand the Benefits of an Agile Way of Working

An agile software development approach concentrates on building working software every few weeks, optimising time to value, and dramatically increasing the visibility of true progress to all stakeholders. This requires excellent collaboration not just between the team members but also with the business, and for the organisation to support that team in a timely manner. Although the agile team will be self-organising and plan and coordinate its own work, management will have their responsibilities to ensure a successful outcome.

Management need to form and nurture cross-functional agile teams which contain all the skills required, provide the right environment for the teams to work within, and support and assist the teams when they inevitably come across problems getting in their way of rapidly delivering software. Management also have to monitor the progress and health of agile projects, with an appropriate level of governance that avoids stifling the flexibility and creativity of the teams.

The shift to an agile approach from the traditional approach is profound. We have found that no amount of explaining can adequately convey the differences between the approaches; one has to experience the agile approach in order to appreciate the benefits and the challenges of this new way of working.

A New and Practical Learning Style

The best way to get up to speed on the essentials of agile development is by trying it hands-on. Under expert instruction, attendees will experience a simulated agile project covering all the key agile practices and ceremonies in a highly compressed timescale. Attendees will play the various roles in the team, with cards and dice used to introduce random elements, such as risks and impediments, to see how they are managed within the agile approach.

This simulation is intended to illustrate to executives and decision-makers how agile teams operate and the benefits of an agile approach. It will allow senior leaders and management to fully understand the agile terminology and the various ceremonies performed. Managers will also learn how to interact with and support their teams, and demonstrate how to monitor the progress and health of an agile project.
Learn in a safe simulated environment

- What Agile Development is, how it differs from traditional approaches, and the benefits
- How projects are driven from a prioritised backlog of requirements
- How projects are planned at a strategic level, as well as in detail for the time-boxed iterations
- How risks can be systematically identified and actively reduced while achieving progress
- Techniques for prioritising and estimating items on the backlog, and for scoring risks
- How agile teams are formed, and how they coordinate their work
- How to recognise and deal with impediments and risks, with common examples
- Practical measures for monitoring the progress and health of an agile project
- How an agile team learns and improves over time with retrospectives, and how management can assist
- How management should support and interact with agile teams
- What demands the agile team will make on management, the organisation, and their stakeholders

Alpha State Cards

Attendees will use Alpha State Cards to help assess project state, set iteration objectives, track progress, enhance their retrospectives, and improve their way of working. They will also be used to demonstrate a lightweight and practice independent approach to governance.

What our customers are saying:

“Really excellent overview and presentation of agile in an engaging format. This needs to set the training standard for all our groups looking to adopt agile.”

“Brilliant! The first course anyone and everyone should do when embarking on agile.”

Players from a global financial services company

About Ivar Jacobson International

Established in 2004, Ivar Jacobson International is a global services company providing high quality consulting, coaching and training solutions for customers implementing enterprise-scale agile software development. IJI improves the performance of software development teams by introducing new practices, and removing barriers to their wider adoption. Through the provision of high calibre people, innovative practices, and proven solutions, IJI ensures that its customers achieve strong business/IT alignment, high performing teams, and projects that deliver.

Creating winning teams.

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