A State CIO Perspective on Agile Project Management

William Kehoe
WaTech Director and State CIO

"Agile is a critical component to accelerating the State of Washington strategic vision and transforming services to the public that we serve"
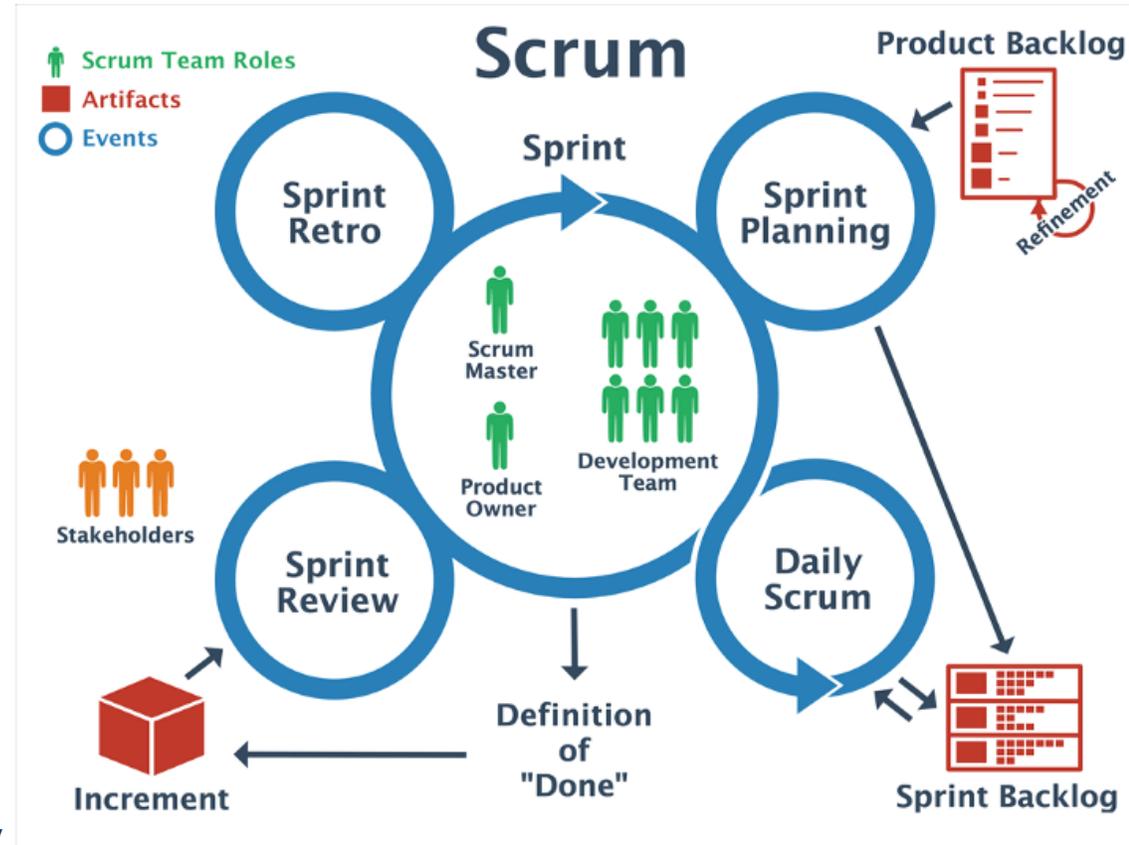
- Bill Kehoe, State CIO

Take stock of where you are…

If you are…	That is…	You might want to consider…
Not even thinking about Agile project management?	Fine.	Getting educated about the cost/benefit. Maybe decide it's for you or decide it's not.
Thinking about utilizing Agile project management?	Good.	Examining WHY you are considering it – and determine whether you have a compelling reason.
Mid-way through a transition to Agile project management?	Okay.	Patience and self-compassion as you move through the growing pains. This isn't easy stuff.
Comfortably using either Agile or waterfall depending on use case?		Documenting your transition process and sharing it with the community. How can you shorten another's journey?
Actively and/or exclusively following a mature Agile project management methodology?	(It's all good!)	What's next? Are you content with status quo? Or is there a new frontier in DevOps, continuous integration, automated validation testing…AI?

Why Agile is important for the State of Washington

- Brings business and technology together to solve and improve a business problem.

- Takes us out of our silos and cultivates teams that create opportunities for better outcomes.

- Agile changes the culture of organizations and drives increased customer focus.

- An important accelerator for innovation, prototyping, and failing fast and forward.

- Drives Cloud adoption and on-going maintenance.

- Agile is an industry best practice and has been adopted by most industry SaaS vendors.

Areas for awareness and focus

- RFP, SOWs, contracts, vendor requirements and expectations.
- Agile should <u>not</u> be used to move fast and get things into production without the required quality disciplines in place (testing, security, training, etc.).
- There are times when waterfall or an agile/waterfall hybrid will work better. Think: fit for purpose.
- Vendor management and partnership.
- The role of the PM.
- Scheduling an Agile project.
  - You still have to plan.