

AGILE SONGS

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THE AGILE WIRE PODCAST

Professional certifications: APS, PSM, PSM II, PSE, PSPO, PSU, PSK, APK. Member of the Professional Training Network. MAD CITY AGILITY logo.

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Intake

Avoid	Try
-Projects being added to your “product” backlog	-Starting with impact and outcome during ideation
-Trying to make everyone happy	-Thinking about what you’re saying “no” to...when you say “yes”
-Starting/working on everything	-Visualizing intake to surface tradeoff discussions
	-Rationalizing stakeholder requests with user/customer behaviors

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Product Goals

Avoid

- Confusing with product vision
- Being everything to everyone

Try

- Thematic summaries of impact and outcome statements
- Creating focus for your team and stakeholders

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Right Sizing

Avoid

- Tasks as PBIs
- Dividing value between multiple PBIs
- Slicing too thin just because you can't get done in a Sprint
- Using the Product Backlog as a time tracking tool or accounting system

Try

- Crafting impact and outcome statements as PBIs
- Working on items as an entire team vs individuals
- Focusing on the "why" and the "what" when refining and leave the "how" for Sprint Planning

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Shared Understanding

Avoid

- Requirements handoffs with no conversations
- A few people talking and majority listening
- Long-term detailed planning
- Fake spikes

Try

- Shifting the majority of the talk time to the people responsible for creating the product Increment
- Questions to surface understanding
- Summaries to clarify understanding
- Diverge/merge cycles
- Stopping once the PBI is "actionable" or "ready"

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Ordering

Avoid

- Changing order only a few times a year
- Changing order during Sprint Planning
- Confusing "order" with "priority/categorization"
- Using calculations or processes as the only input to ordering decisions

Try

- Using Product Goals and Sprint Goals to help reveal order
- Sharing order in refinement and Sprint Reviews

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Forecasting

Avoid

- Using averages
- Single date on the calendar
- Once and never updating
- Using expert opinion
- Long time horizons

Try

- Forecasting dates with confidence intervals
- Using empirical data to build your forecasts
- Using Monte Carlo simulations
- Continuously updating your forecasts
- Using forecasts to discuss optionality
- Sharing forecasts in Sprint Reviews and refinement sessions

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