Exposing Uncomfortable Topics: Errors and Omissions with Scaling

Presented @ smarter enterprise lean agile - less toronto/montreal/ottawa toronto, on

About Gene

Gene Gendel is an organizational design specialist, agile/lean coach and trainer, consultant and adviser to senior leadership. Almost 15 of 20+ years of his professional experience – Gene dedicated to working with companies of various sizes and lines of business, trying to help them improve internal dynamics, organizational structure and and becoming a better place to work. Gene engages at all organizational levels: senior- and mid-level management, teams and individuals. In his work, Gene uses various methods, tools and techniques to amplify learning by others and to ensure that people gain autonomy after Gene "coaches himself out of the job".

Gene is Certified Agile Coach (CAC), by Scrum Alliance – small elite community of Scrum Alliance Certified Enterprise Coaches (CEC). Today, he is the only CEC who resides in NY State. Gene is also one of the co-creators of Team Level Coaching Certifications (CTC) program for Scrum Alliance.

Gene is also one of very few <u>Certified LeSS Trainers (CLT)</u> that are based in the United States.

He is also well-recognized blogger and publisher. He is the author of <u>Adaptive Ecosystems</u>: <u>Collection of Independent Essays About Agility</u> and co-author of:

- <u>Agile Coaching: Wisdom from Practitioners</u> (free <u>pdf</u>).
- Best Agile Articles of 2017 and 2018



Gene significantly contributes to global and local agile communities, where he influences people by running workshops, webinars, seminars, panel discussions, lunch & learn, coaching retreats, professional gatherings and other events. While teaching and coaching Large Scale Scrum (LeSS) to organizations, Gene has built the biggest in world (today) LeSS meetup community that is used as a free educational hub about LeSS available to many people.

Assets To Consider

• gg_nyc@yahoo.com (underscore)



https://www.linkedin.com/in/ggnyc/ in



http://www.keystepstosuccess.com/contact-us/ KS-



https://join.slack.com/t/kstsconsulting/shared_invite/zt-fykyy2wz-<u>qrJkOgVYHAopwT2dq4ogCw</u> (Free Slack channel – any Q&A ☺)



https://www.meetup.com/Large-Scale-Scrum-LeSS-in-NYC/



http://www.keystepstosuccess.com/virtual-learning-training-coaching/



https://less.works/trainers/listed-large-scale-scrum-usa-33/courses

Invitation For This Week



August 05-07

https://less.works/course-details/less-basics-online-new-york-1928

(group discount: group_disc)

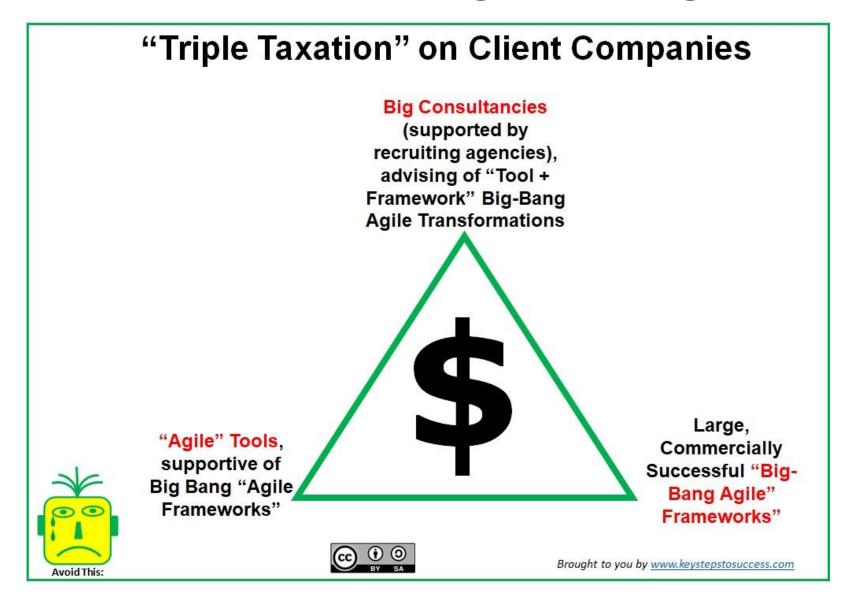
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https://www.keystepstosuccess.com/

The Biggest Omissions With Scaling

- Misunderstanding the word "Enterprise"
- Misunderstanding the word "Scaling"
- > Omissions with fundamentals (e.g. one-team Scrum)
- "Putting Scrum in a "basement"
- Copy-Pasting & Relabeling Legacy "stuff"
- > Fractal Scrum, with Local Optimization
- "New game with same old players" (contracts)

Costs of Fake Agile Are High



Costs of Fake Agile Are High

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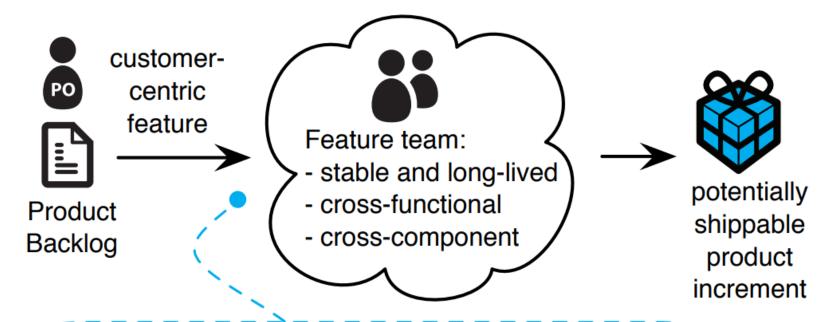


Avoid

(Deck – Driven Transformations)

Knowledge retention and quality of learning are inversely proportional to thickness of a power point 'agile transformation' deck and directly proportional to font size used in a deck;)

Good-Old Scrum

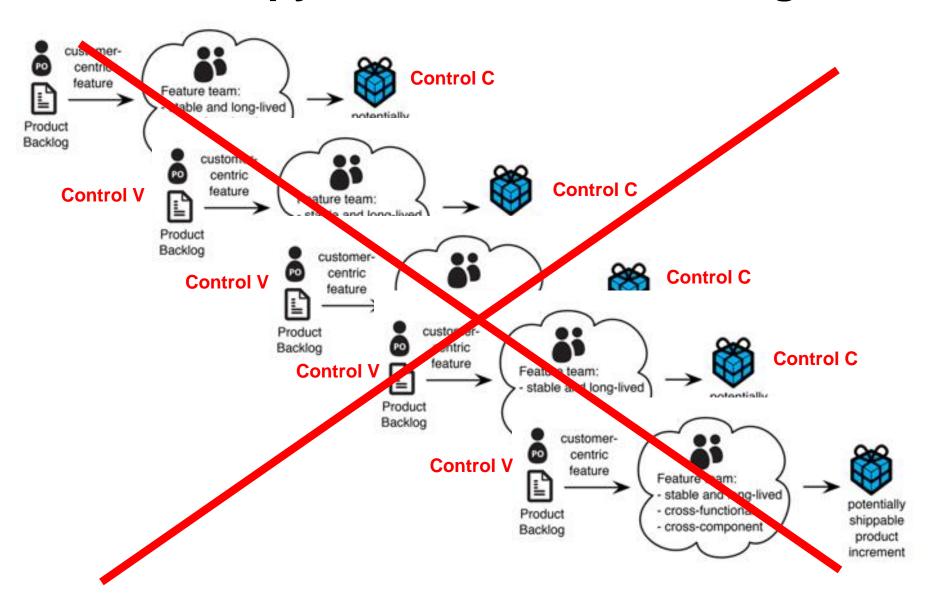


Team has the necessary knowledge and skills to complete an end-to-end customer-centric feature. If not, the team is expected to learn or acquire the needed knowledge and skill.

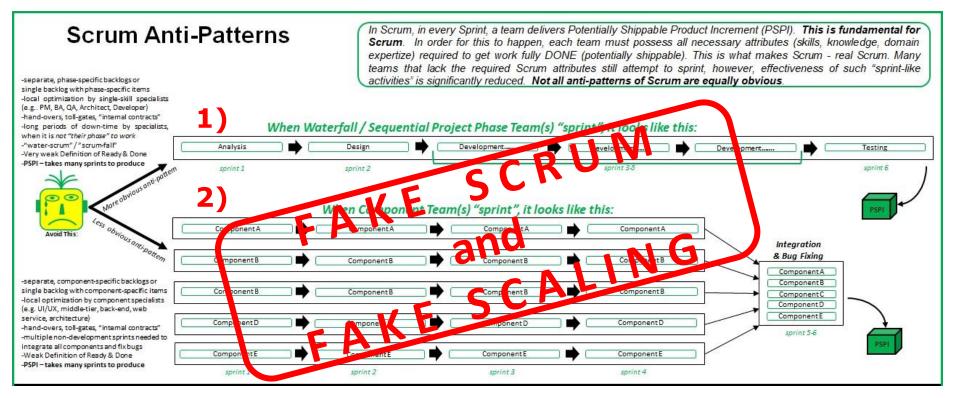
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Copy & Paste Is NOT Scaling



Fake Scrum And Scaling



- Product definition is weak. Applications and components that don't have strong customer alignment are treated as products
- "Doing Scrum" efforts are often a result of trying to meet goals of agile transformation (some annual % goals must be met), set at enterprise level
- "Territorial" code ownership
- Top-down, "command & control" governance, with little autonomy and self-management at team level
- Importance of Scrum dynamics and its roles are viewed as secondary to existing organizational structure blueprints
- Too many single-specialty experts and very few T-shaped workers
- No meaningful HR changes to support Scrum team design

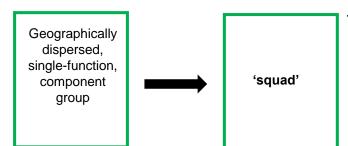
Merciless Relabeling

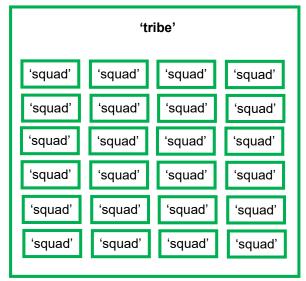
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Taking an existing organizational vertical, flipping it on its side, and then calling it a 'chapter', while preserving all elements of the original structure (reporting lines, management relationships, individual performance by 'chapter leads', mandatory participation) - is a **masquerade**

Re-labeling

Relabeling large, geographically dispersed, single—function specialist/component group, managed by engagement managers and technical leads (with groups, frequently coming from external vendors, bound by fixed-everything SOWs) into a 'squad'- is a **masquerade**





Taking an existing portfolio of programs and projects (usually, they weakly support customer-centric products) that are worked upon by used-to-be component groups, and now, so called 'squads', while relabeling a portfolio into a 'tribe' - is a **masquerade**

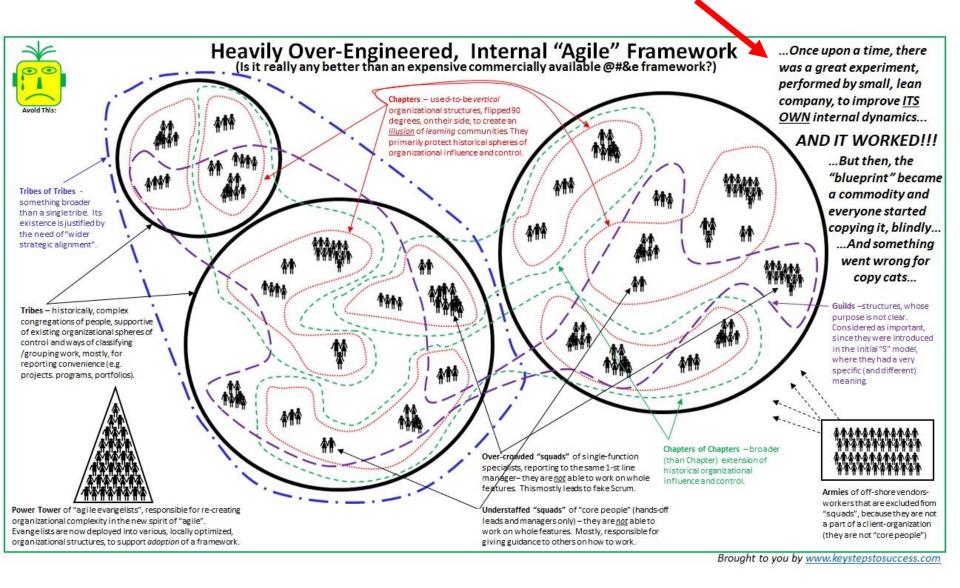
Born To Scale

Birth Certificate

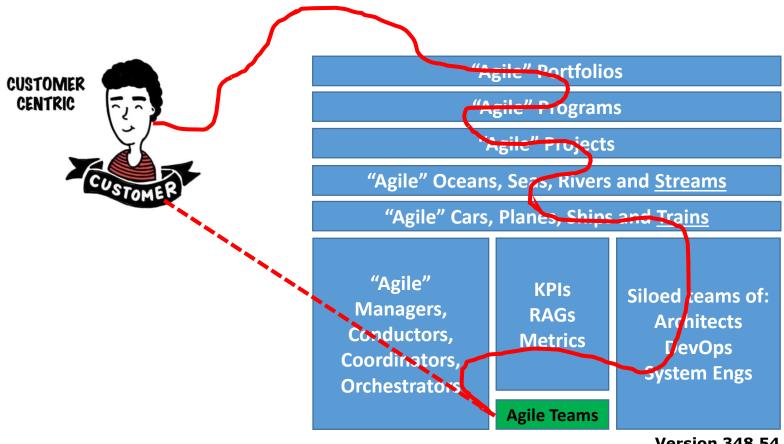
This Certifies That

	(Name)	
(Mother)		(Father)
(Weight)		(Length)
	(Location)	
(City)		(State)
(Signed)		(Signed)
(#@8 o Cortifi	cation Number) (#	@&e Version)

Copy & Pasting Someone Else's Experiment



Wide Gap = Low Proximity



Version 348.54

- Where is customer centricity?
- How looooong is a feedback loop between customers and developers?
- How adaptive (agile, fast-reacting) can teams really be, to Customer's requests?
- What has changed from what you saw prior to "installation"?

Big problem - Exposed

05/05 - LESS TALKS: DAVE SNOWDEN: ANSWERING TOUGH QUESTIONS (Q&A)

A great talk today (this is round 2), with Dave Snowden (round 1 was on 04/20), who took on some provocative and pretty powerful questions. All points that Dave made were strong.

Here is one that resonated really strong (the quote in blue below is semitranscribed/paraphrased, starting from

about 4 min 20 sec in the video recording below):

"...SAFe is perfect for big consultancy firms...

With big consultancies, when the ratio between a principal and a doer (partner and consultant) is up to about from 1:5 to 1:10 - apprentice model.

With ratio of above 1:15 – it becomes an industrial model (you have to "feed" a lot of people), when you get more structured processes and recipes.

This is why big consultancies want high utilization and long-term projects, [using] Six Sigma, BPR, SAP...etc.

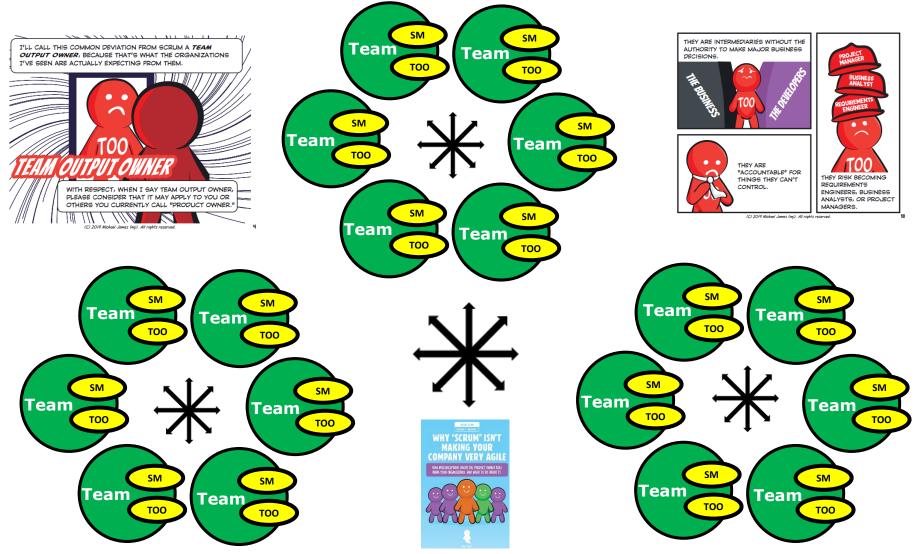
What they like is a massive roll out, with lots of people, over a long period of time.

What they DONT like, are small improvements in the present.

...So you [if you are a client company] are better off working with small consultancies, not big consultancies....".

http://www.keystepstosuccess.com/2020/05/05-05-less-talks-dave-snowden-answering-tough-guestions-ga/

Fractal Scaling (TOO !=PO ©)

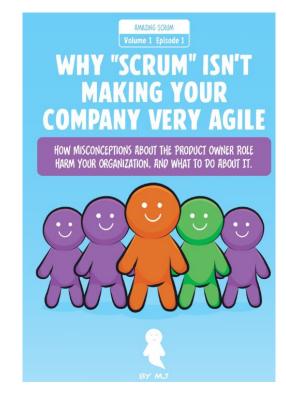


https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cr2rjaGmUzo

Each team: private backlog, dedicated TOO, SM - estimating in a sile

Who is Team Output Owner (TOO)?





Why "Scrum" Isn't Making Your Organization Agile: Harmful Misconceptions About Product Owner Role

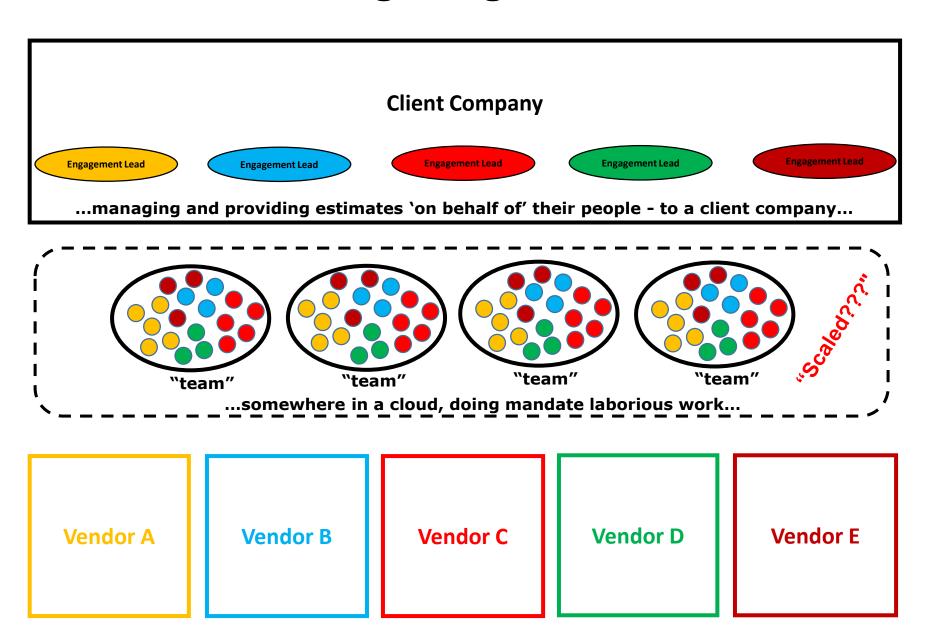


MJ (MICHAEL JAMES)

has written many things, including the Scrum Master Checklist at http://ScrumMasterChecklist.org
Email him at mj@seattlescrum.com or tweet him at @michaeldotjames

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cr2rjaGmUzo

"Scaling" Legal Contracts



Reading References

SAFe

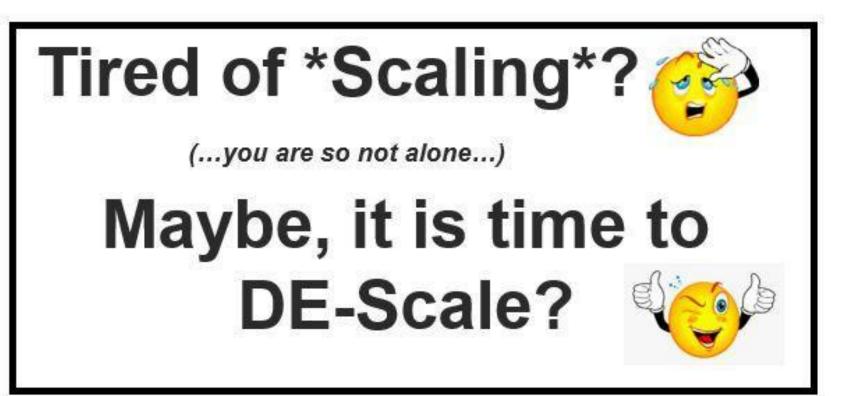
- •05/05 LESS TALKS: Dave Snowden: Answering Tough Questions
- •Ken Scwaber: unSAFe at any speed
- •Mike Cohn: L.A.F.A.B.L.E (Large Agile Framework Appropriate for Big, Lumbering Enterprises), by Mike Cohn
- •S_Fe is not Agile. S_Fe is not even Scrum, by Mike Beedle
- •Issues with SAFe, by Ron Jeffries
- •"SAFe = shitty Agile for Enterprises", by Martin Fowler
- •SAFe: Market Share Increase. Rapid Growth. What Is The Recipe?, by Gene Gendel
- •Dan Snowden: SAFe: the infantilism of management
- •Does SAFe agree with the Agile Manifesto?, by Peter Merel
- •SAFE ≠ AGILE, by Tom Mellor
- •Dependencies, Scrum of Scrums, and SAFe, by Ron Jeffries
- •https://ronieffries.com/categories/safe/, by Ron Jeffries
- •GOTO 2015: Agile is Dead, by Dave Thomas
- •Why do so many companies seem to jump straight to SAFe when starting Agile?, by Mark Levison
- •U.S. Air Force Questions about Agile /SAFe Memo? -highly discouraging from using rigid, prescriptive frameworks such as SAFe | (Slide 12 screenshot)
- •CSO Memo on Agile and SAFe, by Nicolas M. Chaillan (US Air Force Chief Software Officer)
- •"It's just a toolbox" essentials and accidents in scaling agile, by Dr. Agilefant
- Scaling Agility or Bureaucracy, by Ari Tikka and Ran Nyman
- •LeSS SAFe comparison, by Ari Tikka and Ran Nyman
- •The Horror Of The Scaled Agile Framework, by Neil Killick
- •You Don't Need a Complicated Story Hierarchy, by Mike Cohn
- •Let's Acknowledge SAFe for What It Is....And Move On, by Mike Cottmeyer
- •Revenge of the PMO, by Marty Cagan
- •Why SAFe Is Not The Scaled Agile Approach You Need, by Renee Thoughton
- •Remove References To Scrum From SAFe!. by Den Sunny
- •Beware SAFe (the Scaled Agile Framework for Enterprise), an Unholy Incarnation of Darkness, by Sean Dexter
- •10 Common Mistakes when Implementing SAFe, by Michael Küsters
- •Steal "Agile": Despicable Mission, Jacques Morali, Victor Willis, Henri Belolo
- •How is SAFe different from Scrum/Agile project management?, by Peter Stevens

Spotify "Model":

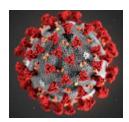
- Failed #SquadGoals, by Jeremiah Lee
- ·Case Study: When emulating Scaling Agile at Spotify went awry at Refinery29, by Andy Park
- The Spotify "Model": Don't Simply Copy-Paste, by Evan Campbell
- Spotify didn't implement the Spotify model by copying Spotify...by Kent Beck
- •"Spotify Model" 10 lessons in transplantology, by Kate Hobler (Terlecka)
- Scaling Agile @ Spotify, with Tribes, Squads, Chapters & Guilds, by Henrik Kniberg & Anders Ivarsson
- Don't Copy the Spotify Model, by Ben Linders
- •Over-engineered "Agile Operating Model" by Gene Gendel
- •Accelerated career path by "!@#\$%^ Coach", by Gene Gendel

https://www.keystepstosuccess.com/2016/05/safe-market-share-increase-rapid-growth-what-is-the-recipe/

Market Reality: Lowered Tolerance To...



https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6691900420555608064/



What is COVID-19 impact?

ALTERNATIVES???

Important

Organizational <u>STRUCTURE</u> –

is the <u>1st Order Factor</u> (Variable) that has impact on everything else inside <u>ECOSYSTEM</u>.

Everything else just follows: culture, mindset, behaviors, norms, values, processes, policies

e.g. metrics, velocities, OKRs, KPIs, RAGs, maturity levels – much less relevant

This is what some less experienced agile coaches do not stress, when they coach senior management \otimes

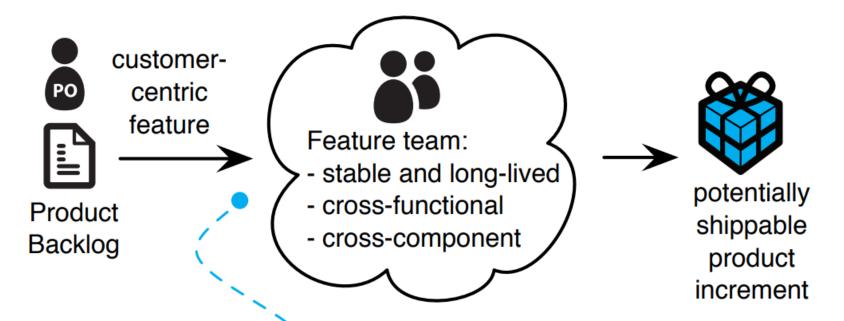
UNDERSTAND

It is vital to appreciate that organizational agility <u>cannot</u> be achieved by a development team in isolation — it is a system <u>challenge</u> for organizational redesign. Especially when you are interested in LeSS within an R&D department of thousands, where each product group may have 200 or 700 people distributed in two or five sites around the world. If an engineering team has the technical capacity to adapt or change quickly, but requirements management, legal practices, product management, HR policies, site strategies, and deployment processes all emphasize rigidity, conformance to original plans, conformance to the status quo, and slow practices, then how can there be real agility?

Source: https://www.scrumalliance.org/community/spotlight/craig-larman/june-2015/less-agile-or-less-agile

http://www.keystepstosuccess.com/2017/08/agile-organization-as-a-sushi-roll/

Remember Good-Old Scrum?



Team has the necessary knowledge and skills to complete an end-to-end customer-centric feature. If not, the team is expected to learn or acquire the needed knowledge and skill.

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Scrum with 2-8 Teams

NOT scaling Scrum: Many teams doing their own Scrum

Scaling Scrum: 2-8 teams scrumming together (on same Product)

<u>Different people</u> with strategy, and vision, setting a different course



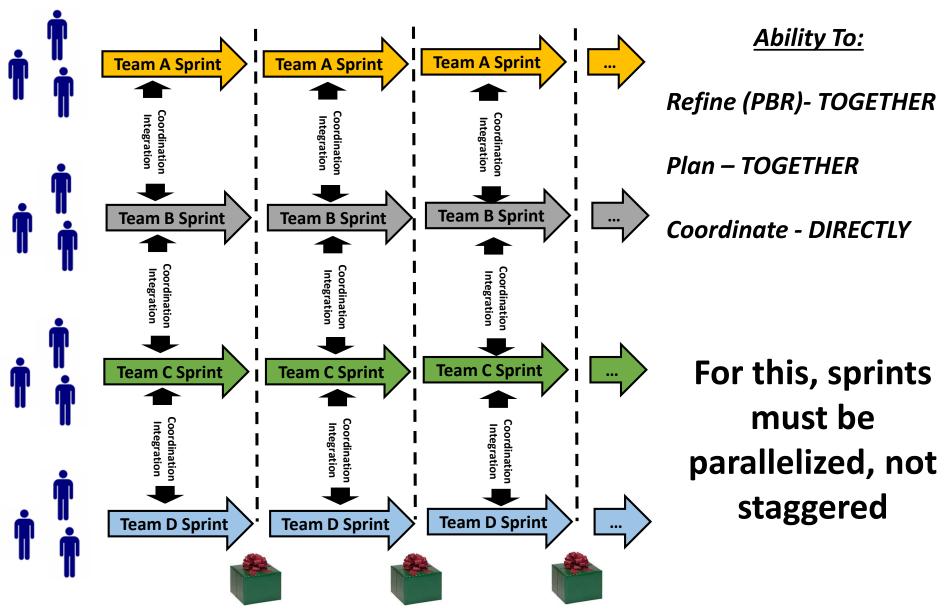
<u>Same person</u> with strategy, and vision, setting a unified course



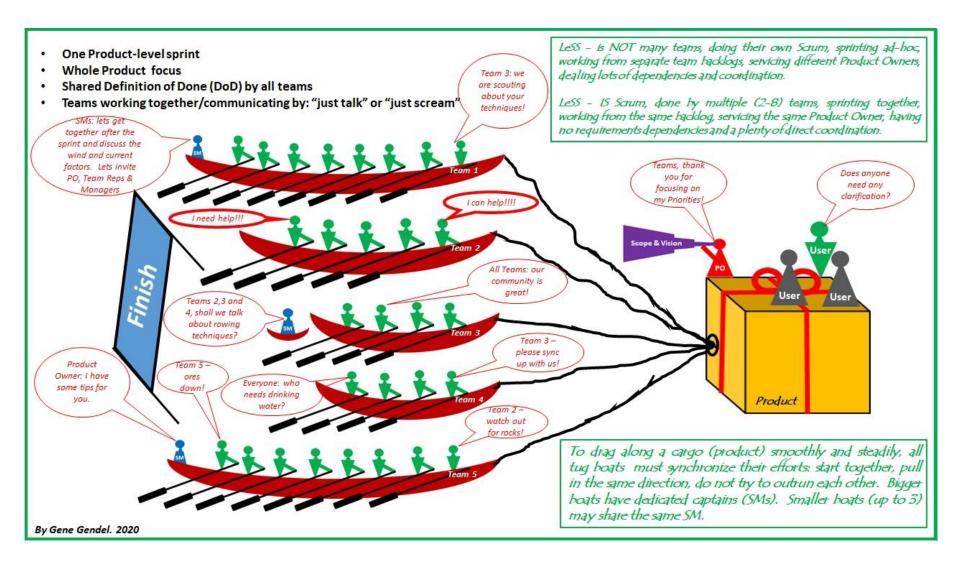
NO

YES

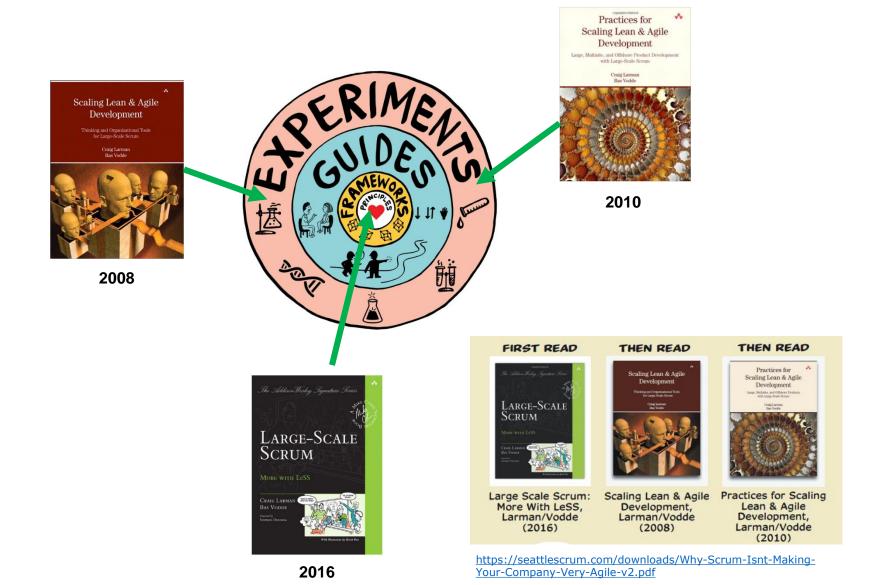
One Sprint: 2 – 8 Teams



One Sprint: 2 – 8 Teams

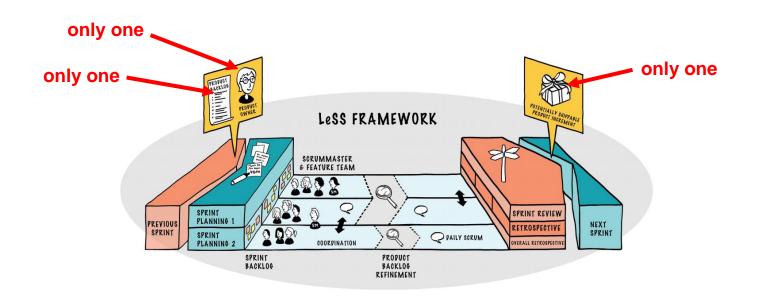


The Big Picture & History

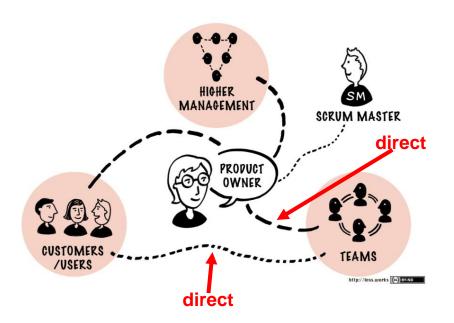


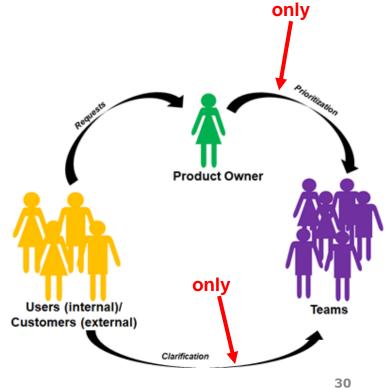
Size of LeSS Adoption

- Less adoptions require months of preparation and then a 'FLIP'.
- Less is no more than 70+/- a few, people: don't try to bite more than you can swallow
- 2-8 Teams
- One Product. One Product Owner. One Backlog



Product Owner in LeSS





Scrum Master in LeSS



Bad SQL (in HR Database)

It is amazing if your company, creates the following important titles (marked in red) in its HR database, to support agile roles and careers. However, it is a sign of a deep systemic dysfunction and 'agile masquerade', if the following SQL queries are ran, as a batch job, overnight... Θ .

UPDATE table_employee

SET table_employee.title = 'Senior Agile Coach'

WHERE table_employee.title = 'Senior Project Manager'

UPDATE table_employee

SET table_employee.title = 'Scrum Master'

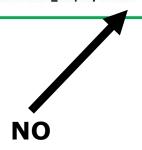
WHERE table_employee.title = 'Junior Project Manager'

UPDATE table_employee

SET table_employee.title = 'Product Owner'

WHERE table employee.title = 'Business Analyst'

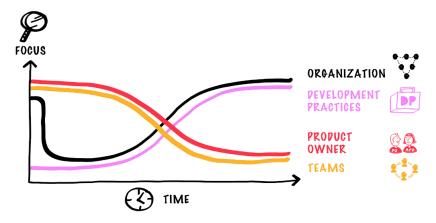
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Dedicated full-time role

In LeSS, the ScrumMaster role is vital. We've seen many organizations try part-time ScrumMasters, which usually leads to no ScrumMasters at all. This then affects the LeSS adoption enormously. In LeSS the ScrumMaster is a dedicated, full-time role in the same way that being a Scrum Team member is a dedicated, full-time role. Having said that, it is possible for one full-time ScrumMaster fill the role for up to three teams, depending on any number of factors.



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Scrum Master in LeSS

Misunderstood

The ScrumMaster role is a new one and often not understood by teams and organizations who are adopting Scrum. A frequent response is to make the "leftover people" the ScrumMasters. They might be nice people but often lack the right skills, motivation, and Scrum knowledge to be effective ScrumMasters. They morph the role into something else which then becomes accepted within the organization as the way a ScrumMaster should be. After all, the ScrumMaster should know if they're doing things correctly, right? Sometimes well-meaning ScrumMasters who are new to Scrum or not a good fit for the ScrumMaster role cause things to happen that are actually counter to Scrum and detrimental to Scrum adoption, thereby transforming them into anti-ScrumMasters.

Is there **Career Path** for F/T Scrum Master?

Dedicated full-time role

In LeSS, the ScrumMaster role is vital. We've seen many organizations try part-time ScrumMasters, which usually leads to no ScrumMasters at all. This then affects the LeSS adoption enormously. In LeSS the ScrumMaster is a dedicated, full-time role in the same way that being a Scrum Team member is a dedicated, full-time role. Having said that, it is possible for one full-time ScrumMaster fill the role for up to three teams, depending on any number of factors.

Sourced from less, works

Team In LeSS

Types of teams

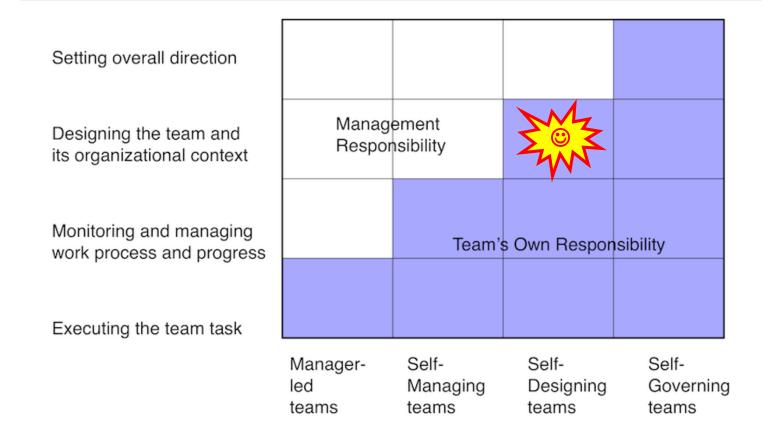
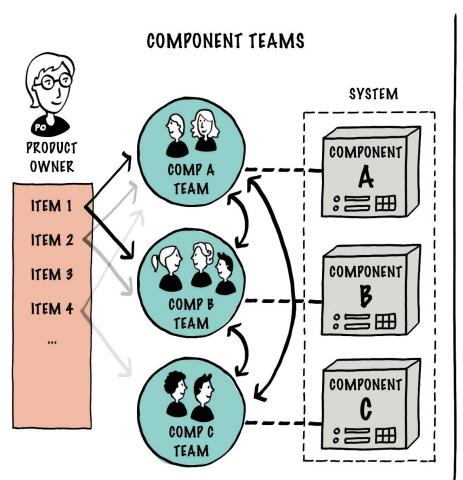


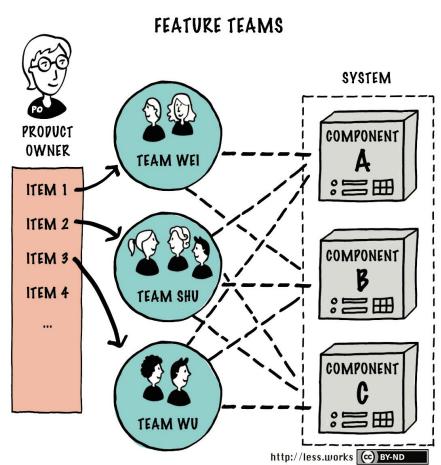
Figure 1. Types of Teams.

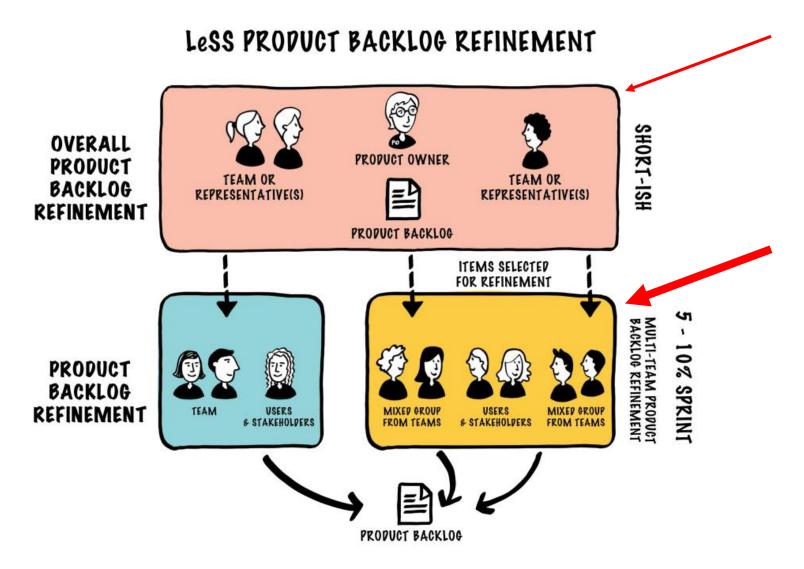
Source: https://less.works/resources/graphics/index.html

Team In LeSS









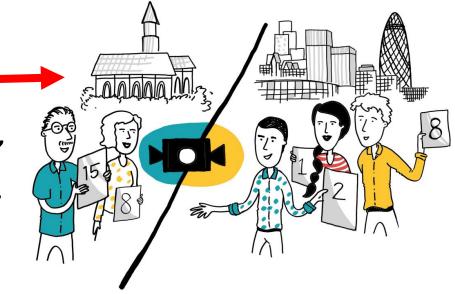
Multi-team Product Backlog Refinement



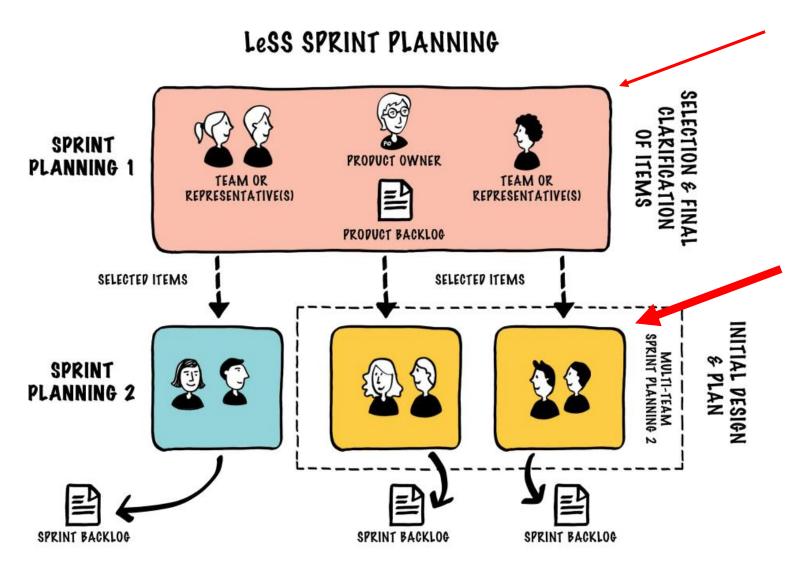
- Open space (physical or virtual)
- "Promiscuous" collaboration
- Directly, with users and customers

Multi-site estimation with Planning Poker

- By "doers" (team members)
- Everyone is involved
- The main goal: CCC (Card, Conversation, Confirmation)
- No need to be too conservative (pad) or aggressive, while estimating

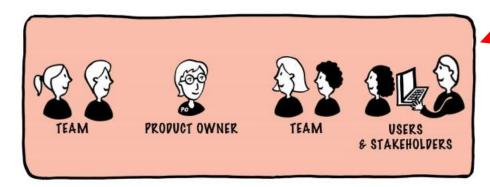


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Less sprint review & retrospective



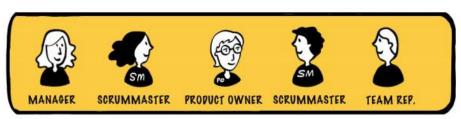


TEAM RETROSPECTIVE



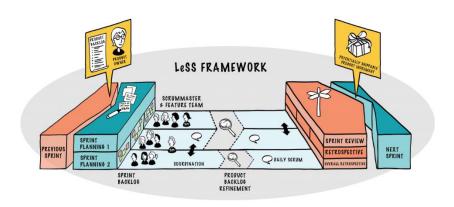


OVERALL RETROSPECTIVE



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Why Is LeSS More Real?



Real Product Group



Real Team (Feature)

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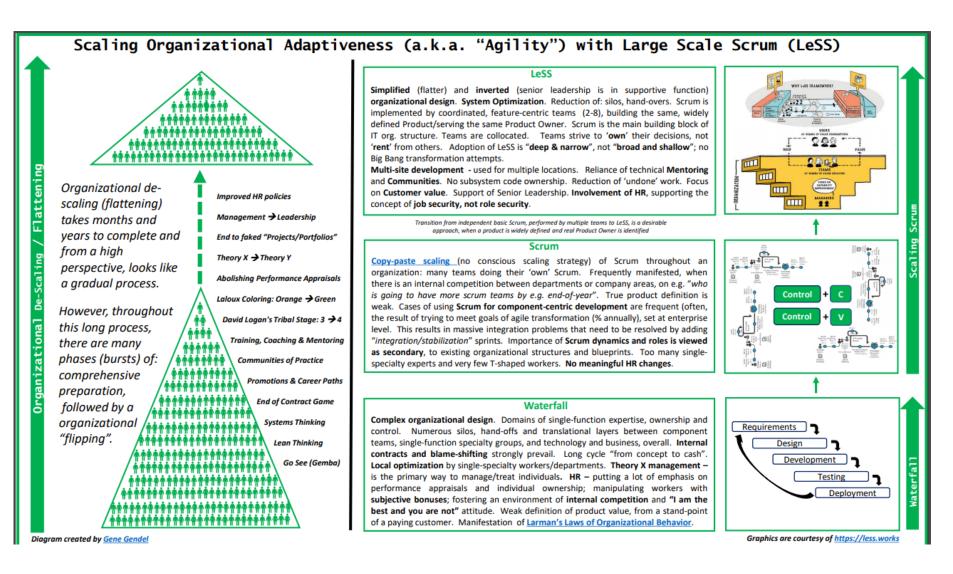


Real Community (for functional learning)

Q&A

APPENDIX

Less is More



Source: http://www.keystepstosuccess.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/scrum scaling org descaling-1.pdf

Relationships in LeSS

