



### NEW QUESTION # 13

How the organization discusses and plans the work of creating software will be reflected in the implementation of that software. Technical systems can be decomposed to composite elements, from the large to the small. Basic components may be represented as activities, workflows, functions, features, capabilities, and other similar nomenclature. How does this system decomposition affect Scrum Teams on scaled projects?

#### Answer:

##### Explanation:

How an organization discusses, plans, and decomposes work is inevitably reflected in the software it produces. When technical systems are decomposed into elements such as activities, workflows, functions, features, or components, these decomposition choices have a direct and systemic impact on Scrum Teams, especially in scaled Scrum environments.

#### 1. Decomposition Influences Team Structure (Conway's Law)

In scaled projects, system decomposition often drives how teams are formed. When work is decomposed along technical components or functions, organizations tend to create specialist or component teams (e.g., front-end teams, back-end teams). This results in:

- \* Increased dependencies between teams,
- \* More handoffs and coordination,
- \* Reduced autonomy of individual teams.

Scrum, however, expects teams to be cross-functional and capable of delivering usable Increments independently. Component-based decomposition therefore hinders effective Scrum adoption at scale.

#### 2. Effect on Value Delivery and Transparency

Scrum relies on frequent inspection of integrated, working product Increments. When decomposition focuses on small technical parts rather than end-to-end features or capabilities, teams may deliver partial outputs instead of usable value.

This negatively affects:

- \* Transparency, as progress is reported through intermediate artifacts rather than working software,
- \* Inspection, since stakeholders cannot meaningfully evaluate value,
- \* Adaptation, because feedback is delayed until integration occurs.

In scaled Scrum, this often results in "almost done" work that is not truly Done.

#### 3. Feature-Oriented Decomposition Supports Scrum

Scrum scales more effectively when system decomposition emphasizes vertical slices of value, such as features or capabilities, rather than horizontal technical layers. Feature-oriented decomposition enables:

- \* Cross-functional teams,
- \* Reduced dependencies,
- \* Faster feedback cycles,
- \* Independent delivery of value by each team.

This approach aligns with Scrum's expectation that every Sprint produces a usable Increment.

#### 4. Impact on Integration and Risk

Decomposition decisions strongly affect integration frequency. Poor decomposition increases integration complexity and encourages late integration, which raises risk and reduces learning.

In Scrum—especially at scale—integration must happen early and often. Unintegrated work is not considered Done, and delayed integration undermines empiricism by hiding real system behavior until late in development.

#### 5. Learning and System Optimization

When Scrum Teams work on complete features rather than isolated components, they gain broader insight into:

- \* Customer needs,
- \* System-wide trade-offs,
- \* End-to-end product behavior.

This shared understanding improves decision-making and supports continuous improvement at the system level, rather than local optimization within silos.

### NEW QUESTION # 14

In what way does Scrum encourage ethical behaviour, doing "the right thing", in software development?

#### Answer:

##### Explanation:

Scrum encourages ethical behaviour in software development by creating a framework that promotes transparency, accountability, quality, and respect for stakeholders, all of which are grounded in the Scrum Values. Rather than prescribing ethical rules, Scrum embeds ethical behaviour into the way work is organized and delivered.

First, Scrum promotes ethics through its focus on delivering valuable, high-quality working products. The Scrum Guide emphasizes

delivering usable Increments that meet a shared Definition of Done. By prioritizing quality and value for both the organization and end-users, Scrum discourages practices such as cutting corners, hiding technical debt, or delivering misleading progress, which are ethically questionable.

Second, Scrum strongly supports transparency, a core pillar of empiricism. All significant aspects of the work—such as progress, impediments, risks, and uncertainties—are made visible through artifacts and events.

This transparency encourages honesty about what can and cannot be achieved and prevents unethical behaviour such as misreporting status or concealing problems until it is too late.

Third, Scrum encourages accountability at both individual and team levels. Clear accountabilities for the Product Owner, Developers, and Scrum Master ensure that responsibility is not diffused or avoided. Teams are accountable for delivering value, improving their way of working, and meeting their commitments. This accountability fosters ethical decision-making and ownership of outcomes.

Fourth, Scrum supports ethical behaviour through continuous learning and improvement. Sprint Retrospectives create a structured opportunity to reflect on mistakes, share knowledge, and improve processes and practices. This openness to learning promotes humility, integrity, and a willingness to correct issues rather than ignoring or rationalizing them.

Finally, Scrum is explicitly guided by the Scrum Values of Commitment, Courage, Focus, Respect, and Openness, which form its ethical foundation.

- \* Commitment encourages teams to do what they say they will do.
- \* Courage enables individuals to raise concerns, admit problems, and challenge unethical practices.
- \* Focus helps teams concentrate on delivering real value rather than superficial outputs.
- \* Respect ensures consideration for colleagues, stakeholders, and end-users.
- \* Openness promotes honesty about progress, challenges, and uncertainty.

### NEW QUESTION # 15

In what ways does the Scrum Master attend the Sprint Retrospective?

#### Answer:

##### Explanation:

The Sprint Retrospective is a formal Scrum event where the Scrum Team inspects how the last Sprint went with respect to individuals, interactions, processes, tools, and their Definition of Done, and identifies improvements for future Sprints. The Scrum Master attends the Sprint Retrospective in multiple, complementary ways, consistent with the Scrum Guide.

First, the Scrum Master joins the Sprint Retrospective as a Scrum Team member. The Scrum Guide defines the Scrum Team as consisting of the Product Owner, Developers, and the Scrum Master. Therefore, the Scrum Master is not an external observer but a full participant in the event. As such, the Scrum Master actively inspects people, processes, and tools, and contributes insights based on their perspective and experience, while remaining respectful of the team's self-management.

Second, the Scrum Master often facilitates the Sprint Retrospective. According to the Scrum Guide, the Scrum Master is accountable for ensuring that Scrum events take place and are productive. Facilitation may include helping the team create a safe environment, encouraging openness, ensuring balanced participation, keeping the discussion focused on improvement, and helping the team stay within the timebox. However, facilitation does not imply control; the Scrum Master facilitates to serve the team, not to direct outcomes.

Third, the Scrum Master supports empiricism during the Retrospective. By fostering transparency, encouraging honest inspection, and helping the team identify actionable improvements, the Scrum Master strengthens the Scrum pillars of transparency, inspection, and adaptation. The Scrum Master may also help the team turn improvement ideas into concrete actions that can be planned for the next Sprint.

Finally, the Scrum Master helps ensure that the Sprint Retrospective results in meaningful adaptation. While the Scrum Team decides what improvements to implement, the Scrum Master supports the team in identifying impediments, coaching on improvement techniques, and helping remove organizational or systemic obstacles that are beyond the team's direct control.

In summary, the Scrum Master attends the Sprint Retrospective by joining as a full Scrum Team member, participating in inspection, often facilitating the event, and supporting continuous improvement and empiricism. This balanced participation ensures that the Retrospective remains a powerful mechanism for learning and adaptation rather than a ritualistic meeting.

### NEW QUESTION # 16

Your Scrum Team has one month Sprints. The development team argues that since this period is quite long, a Daily Scrum is a bit too much. They instead want a weekly update meeting. What is your opinion on this?

#### Answer:

##### Explanation:

From a Scrum Master's perspective, replacing the Daily Scrum with a weekly update meeting is not consistent with Scrum and would

significantly weaken the team's ability to inspect and adapt effectively, regardless of the Sprint length.

First, Scrum explicitly defines the Daily Scrum as a required event. The Scrum Guide states that the Daily Scrum is a 15-minute event held every working day of the Sprint for the Developers. The length of the Sprint—whether one week or one month—does not change the purpose or necessity of this event. Therefore, by choosing not to have a Daily Scrum, the team would no longer be practicing Scrum, but rather a Scrum-like process.

Second, the Daily Scrum is not a status meeting. Its primary purpose is to allow the Developers to inspect progress toward the Sprint Goal, synchronize their work, and adapt the Sprint Backlog as needed. A weekly meeting dramatically reduces the frequency of inspection and adaptation, delaying the discovery of issues such as integration problems, misalignment, or risks to the Sprint Goal.

Third, removing the Daily Scrum negatively impacts transparency, one of Scrum's three pillars of empiricism. Without daily synchronization, important information about progress, impediments, and discoveries becomes stale or hidden. This reduced transparency increases the likelihood that work will drift away from agreed standards, fail to integrate properly, or no longer support the Sprint Goal by the end of the Sprint.

Fourth, the argument that a one-month Sprint justifies less frequent inspection reflects a misunderstanding of empiricism. Longer Sprints increase risk, which makes frequent inspection and adaptation more important, not less. The Daily Scrum provides a regular opportunity to realign the team and respond early to emerging problems, thereby reducing waste and rework.

Finally, as a Scrum Master, my role is to teach and coach the Scrum Team on the purpose and value of Scrum events. Rather than removing the Daily Scrum, I would help the Developers improve how they use it—for example, ensuring it focuses on progress toward the Sprint Goal and actionable planning for the next 24 hours, instead of turning into a reporting session.

### NEW QUESTION # 17

A fellow Scrum Master asks for your input. His team members see no value in defining a Sprint goal and he has trouble explaining its use to them. What would you tell this Scrum Master?

#### Answer:

##### Explanation:

If team members see no value in defining a Sprint Goal, this indicates a fundamental misunderstanding of Scrum. As a Scrum Master, I would explain to my fellow Scrum Master that the Sprint Goal is a core element of Scrum and is essential for alignment, commitment, and empiricism.

First, the Sprint Goal explains why the Scrum Team is doing the work in the Sprint. According to the Scrum Guide, the Sprint Goal is the single objective for the Sprint and provides coherence to the Sprint Backlog. Without a clear "why," Sprint work becomes a collection of unrelated tasks rather than a purposeful effort to deliver value. The Sprint Goal helps the team understand the intent behind the selected Product Backlog Items and aligns daily decisions with that intent.

Second, the Sprint Goal represents a commitment by the Scrum Team. The team commits to doing everything in its power to achieve the Sprint Goal, even though the specific scope may evolve. This commitment fosters focus and shared accountability. Instead of optimizing for individual tasks, the team optimizes for achieving the Sprint Goal as a whole.

Third, the Sprint Goal actually creates flexibility rather than restricting it. When new discoveries, risks, or opportunities emerge during the Sprint, the team can adapt the Sprint Backlog as long as those changes do not endanger the Sprint Goal. This allows the team to respond to change while maintaining stability of purpose.

Without a Sprint Goal, change becomes arbitrary and increases the risk of losing focus.

Fourth, the Sprint Goal enables effective inspection and adaptation. During the Daily Scrum, the team inspects progress toward the Sprint Goal and adapts their plan accordingly. Similarly, at the Sprint Review, stakeholders can inspect whether the Sprint Goal was met. Without a Sprint Goal, there is no meaningful benchmark for inspection.

Finally, it is important to be clear that without a Sprint Goal, Scrum is not being practiced as intended.

The Sprint Goal is a required element of Scrum, and removing it undermines transparency and weakens the empirical foundation of the framework.

### NEW QUESTION # 18

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