

# Scrum Discussion Questions For the Team



These questions and subsequent discussion points are designed to help your Team more efficiently implement Scrum and to become more agile. The following are discussion points to direct the conversation for complete understanding of the complexities of Scrum.

## Scrum Basics

Scrum is for solving complex problems. What makes something complex? How can Scrum help us deal with complexity?

Scrum includes a social agreement to be empirical as a Team. What do you think an empirical agreement is?

The notions of Accountability and Responsibility are important in Scrum. What do you think the differences are?

How are the Team, Product Owner, and ScrumMaster each held accountable?

How do you define a stakeholder? Do they form the context in which the Team exists? Who are our stakeholders?

Why does Scrum emphasize fixed-length iterations? How does that help our workflow?

Why are our sprints \_\_\_ weeks long? How does this impact our productivity and organization?

Vision provides focus and roadmaps provide guidance. What's the distinction between these concepts? Is it a useful distinction?

## Scrum Team

What are the basic responsibilities of the Scrum Team?

What is the difference between a Team that is self-directed and one that is self-organizing?

Why is it important that each Team Member be accountable to the rest of the Team? What happens when they are not?

Teams swarm on items. Why is it not more organized? Is Team Swarm a sign of disorganized energy that can be better directed?



## Product Owner

How much time should the Product Owner Spend with the Scrum Team?

How does the Product Owner determine what will please the Stakeholders? How do they help the Stakeholders explore what they want in a Product? Which do you prefer: interactive models or large surveys?

In general, how quickly will the Product Owner want something done? Has this been a reasonable amount of time for us to get work done?

What happens when the Product Owner has undue influence over the Development Team? Who would help detect and prevent that?



## ScrumMaster

How much time should the ScrumMaster spend with the Scrum Team?

What are the interactions between the Product Owner and ScrumMaster like?

How does the ScrumMaster remove the Team's Impediments?

## Development Team

The Development Team is the subset of the Scrum Team that is actually developing or building stuff. Who belongs on this Team?

## Backlog

Is the Product Backlog is a prioritized list? Should it be?

What does the word Backlog mean to you? If it's in the Backlog does that mean we are supposed to do it?



There are two lists of work in Scrum: Product Backlog and Sprint Backlog. What is the difference? How does the Team view them? How do stakeholders and the Product Owner view them?

Why is Backlog refinement a continuous process throughout the project? Who is responsible for grooming the Backlog?

Who can add things to the Product Backlog? When do you believe the Backlog is too long?

## Agile Analysis

What is analysis in traditional product development?

What does Agile Analysis in agile product development mean?

## Sprint Planning and Retro

If your releases take only a Sprint long, is release planning just handled during the Sprint Planning session? Do we plan it as part of the Sprint work?

Do the release goals collapse to Sprint goals if you release each Sprint? How much intentional structure does our Team need to stay focused and keep on track with what is going on?

Can information learned during a Sprint modify the release strategy and the number of Sprints planned? What is an example of a time our Team had to do this?

Why are retrospectives necessary? How do they help us look at the past work and move forward? Have we improved our processes by doing retrospectives?

Is the focus of Sprint Planning to agree to a commitment or figure out how much we can get the Team to do? Do we use a previous Sprint's Velocity to determine how much more work we can get out of the Team?



### About 3Back

3Back was founded with the vision to assist organizations from around the world in recognizing the power of their teams. With over 50 years of combined experience working directly on and with Scrum teams, 3Back's goal is to help organizations build and dramatically improve the proficiencies needed for development in a demanding business marketplace.

3Back offers training, coaching and consulting in all aspects of agile product development with an emphasis on the importance of engaging the human side of the equation (the Team) to produce results. At 3Back, we make teams better.

### Visit Us At



[3back.com](http://3back.com)

✉ [info@3back.com](mailto:info@3back.com)

☎ 1.855.32.3BACK

©2014 3Back, LLC

