TOP 10
Lessons Learned on Implementing
AGILE
(& Realizing Its Business Benefits - Quickly)

From Learning Tree's Development Leaders *Tim Vatne, CSM, and Wendy Figueroa, CSPO, PMP* with combined 24 years of Agile experience

1 Engage Your Stakeholders in the Priority Process – *to foster collaboration & transparency between all parties:*

Hold meetings with Stakeholders before each sprint planning to help them understand the business needs and value to the entire organization, (not just their own projects).

2 Agile means a **Faster Time-to-Market Delivery** — *A Competitive Advantage:*

At first, it took time to adopt this method, but it's crucial to staying ahead of the competition. Help the dev team (and leaders) see that there is always time to refine features in later iterations. Progress over perfection.

3 Time Boxing is Key — *to Focus on Defined Requirements:*

Having a fixed schedule with a given team size allows the team to analyze carefully and focus on the defined requirements set for that time period. Toward the end of the sprint, a Sprint Review meeting is a-must to demonstrate the product to all stakeholders to see the project come to life. (And therefore ensure leaders continue supporting Agile transformation.)

4 Focus on the User — *Obvious, Right?:*

Creating User stories with acceptance criteria to define the project is an incredibly quick and efficient way for team members to develop, test for quality assurance and user acceptance. While it may seem obvious, you'd be surprised what happens when you lose the UX focus.

5 Quality Improvement — *Avoid Scope Creep:*

By breaking projects down in smaller, more manageable units, the team can focus solely on the defined tasks without the distraction of scope creep. This frees them to ensure what they are delivering is thoroughly vetted to be a high-quality product or service.

6 Agile is Agile — *Priorities Change for Many Reasons:*

Priorities change often, and the waterfall methodology may be too rigid to adjust to an ever-changing market. The pandemic has forced us all to reevaluate our business model. Projects that were a considered a high priority before the outbreak may no longer be relevant. As we navigate through this difficult time, we must proactively find solutions to meet our customers' needs.

7 Management Buy-In is Crucial — *Adopt A Supportive Mindset*

It is difficult for the Agile team to navigate in a landscape where some Stakeholders are not on board with the Agile model. Adapting to this model may take time for them until they are comfortable with the advantages of Agile, but it is essential for supporting the team to provide timely and successful product delivery.

8 Teams can Modify the Agile Guidelines — *for Best Cadence:*

It may a while for a team to find a cadence that works for them. Sprint length, meeting length, any Agile principle may adapt with each iteration. As the teams expand or decrease over time, this may warrant analysis of their current standards.

9 Daily Stand-Up Meetings are Just the Right Size — *YES - All-Virtual, Cameras On!:*

15 Minutes a day, first thing in the morning, is perfect for each team member to discuss their progress and their roadblocks. This provides the Scrum Master and the Product Owner immediate action items to address should the team members be blocked from completing their tasks.

10 Sprint Retrospectives are Invaluable — *Continuous Improvement:*

Meetings at the end of a Sprint to review the good, the bad and the ugly has proven to be an extremely productive exercise for continuous improvement. Over time, a team can build a library of best practices. We regard this as an excellent team-building benefit of the Agile methodology.

While organizations globally are finding Agile as a success factor in **cost reduction, technical risk assessment,** and **governance automation,** adopting and scaling Agile to meet the needs of the enterprise is still a top challenge, according to the 14th State of Agile Report[1]. So how do you find success in an increasingly Agile future? And with clear evidence validating the business value of Agile Transformation, the most important question is: *How quickly can you start your own journey to Agile success?*

Most Popular Agile Certifications (& Why)

Certified Scrum Product Owner (CSPO) Certification Training *(Course 1814 Virtual Instructor-Led or Private Group Training)*	• Highly interactive certification training provides you with a fundamental understanding of Agile and Scrum, as well as the specific skills, behaviors, and mindset necessary to become a successful Certified Scrum Product Owner,® (CSPO). • Learn to prioritize backlogs, effectively communicate with stakeholders, and use the Scrum framework to manage expectations and keep all parties informed.
Certified Scrum Professional Product Owner Training (CSP-PO) *(Course 1834 Self-Paced On-Demand or Private Group Training)*	• Helps Product Owners advance their careers to Product Managers and solidify their skills in topics such as: advanced stakeholder discussion; funding and financing; customer development; product launches; and, advanced product discovery. • Gain valuable monthly consultations from a Certified Scrum Trainer.
Certified Agile Leadership (CAL) Training *(Course 1822 Virtual Instructor-Led or Private Group Training)*	An immersive exploration of building leaders to be effective in complex, uncertain, and rapidly changing conditions. • Review the prevailing research-driven models that describe high performing organizations, and apply to your organization. • Learn-by-doing - share reports with their peers to discuss, analyze, and share feedback for team learning. • Led by Scrum Alliance Certified Scrum Trainers (CSTs), each of whom have their own Scrum Alliance-approved approach to meeting the Learning Objectives required for certification, as such, each delivery may vary slightly.

[1] 14th State of Agile Report

Looking to increase leadership/stakeholder support?

Applied Leadership Training for Traditional and Agile Projects
(Course 1821 Virtual Instructor-Led or Private Group Training)

Agile Adoption for Managers
(Course 4590 Private Group Training Only)

Scaling Agile: A Guide to Meeting The Challenge
(Course 3655 Private Group Training Only)

Agile Project and Delivery Management Training
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