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Top Ten Impediments to Putting Scrum into Production



- Assuming that Everyone woke up this morning wanting to do Scrum.
Scrum is a different style of work than most are used to, people will not always volunteer for the change involved. Successful transitions either at the team or enterprise level, require time, patience and support.
- Openness/Transparency
Scrum requires we be open about our work, progress and problems. Transparency can be very hard to achieve as it requires that we admit when we're in trouble and ask for help.
- Trying to do it alone
Scrum transitions are hard, rather than try do everything on your own reach out for additional support to [mailing lists](#), [books](#) and outside coaches
- Scrum is great but...
We do Scrum but hold Daily Standup, three times a week. We don't invite our developers to Sprint Review meetings our Product Owner doesn't want them there. In the first 6-12 months of your Scrum Implementation it's important not to fiddle with the basic mechanics of Scrum.
- Everyone has different goals Quality, Time to Market
Each organization has a different reason for transitioning to Scrum. Does everyone on your team understand your reason? Is every action you take inline with that reason? Is every action your team members take inline with that reason?
- Scrum without Engineering Practices
Unit Testing, Test Driven Development, Refactoring et al are hard. As a result many teams don't adopt them. Only a few months later they realize their code base is a pile of [Technical Debt](#) and their velocity has been reduced.
- We can't afford failure
Organizations always say we can't afford to fail. So much emphasis is put on this that team members are afraid to admit even small failures. Yet software development is an inherently risky process, there is always a chance of failure. The question isn't do we risk failure, but how often we test our assumptions. Do we do this once late in a project? Or on a daily (Continuous Integration) and weekly basis (demonstrate working software in the Sprint Review).
- Scrum will highlight your existing dysfunctions
Scrum acts as a mirror into the heart of our organizations. The mirror often reveals deep problems that have existed for some time, e.g. No clear product direction, Backlog priorities being frequently being changed by the VP of Sales, These problems already exist before an organization adopts Scrum. However Scrum shines a light on them.
- Scrum without the Spirit
The team holds all the Scrum Meetings (Sprint Planning, Daily Scrum, Review and Retrospective) and yet there is no energy or fun. Mechanical Scrum suggests that the team aren't involved in the product or the process? Ask them why their building this product. Ask them who they're building it for. Ask they them why all these meetings are held. Their perceptions likely differ from yours.

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- We hold Retrospectives but things never get better
Retrospectives at the end of every sprint are a Scrum team's tool to improve. However when the same items come up retrospective after retrospective it indicates that something is wrong. Why aren't things improving? Improvement was too big for one Sprint? Improvement was outside the scope of the team? The team forgot and didn't act on the improvement?
- Self Organization is required for High Performing teams
Effective Scrum requires self organization, it requires that team members decide how to do their work. It requires that the team decides who will do the work. It requires that the team own all of the decisions around getting the work done. It requires that people with large titles like: "Architect", "Team Lead", "Manager", ... give the team freedom to grow and
- Believing that your done becoming Agile
....

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