



AGILE FACILITATION

Course Description

Much of the work on Agile projects happens in group sessions, team members collaborating to identify and prioritise stories, plan work to be done, elaborate stories, identify risks and issues, communicating progress in stand-ups and other shared activities. Working in collaborative self-organising teams can be challenging and it is important that team members understand the group dynamics involved and how to effectively work together.

This course provides an experiential and theoretical understanding of how collaborative workshops can be run, and how each member can contribute to the team achieving maximum effectiveness, while identifying potential pitfalls (smells) and how to avoid/address them.

Course Outline

The course starts with a short session discussing the dynamics of collaboration in teams:

- understanding why collaborative workshops are an effective way of working together,
- “t-shaped” skills
- working together in teams
- making and keeping commitments
- traps & pitfalls
- hidden agendas and teamicide
- facilitating workshops

The remainder of the day is spent participating in the different workshops based around a simulated Agile project:

- Project kick-off/scoping workshops
- Requirements workshops (story identification)
- Release planning workshops (story prioritisation/planning poker/story estimation/velocity guessing)
- Iteration planning workshops (selecting stories/task identification/“filling the bucket”/velocity estimation/push-pull work allocation)
- Story elaboration workshops – getting to just enough detail/identifying acceptance criteria and test cases
- Daily stand-ups
- Iteration showcases
- Retrospectives (iteration, release and project)

Exactly how many of the workshops will fit into a day will depend on the group, but we will cover the key ones; the intent is to have each participant lead at least one session in their group.



Learning

Objectives

To learn how to facilitate agile workshops in the various phases of a project.

To utilise appropriate problem and conflict resolution techniques.

To learn how to deal with challenging behaviour in a team setting

Prepare action plans that generate ownership of outcomes.

Target Audience

This soft skill course is ideal for anyone on an Agile team. Self-organisation means that there is no restriction to who takes the role of facilitator in a workshop.

They could be Analysts, Developers, Testers, Architects, Project Managers, Business subject matter experts, Team leaders or anyone else on the team.

If a person has already done a standard facilitation course and has practiced as a facilitator then it's not necessary to do this soft skill course, although they may benefit from the discussion of the various Agile workshops.