

Scrum – A Pocket Guide

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Scrum

A Pocket Guide

Gunther Verheyen

Colophon

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Foreword by Ken Schwaber

An outstanding accomplishment that simmers with intelligence.

Scrum – A Pocket Guide is an extraordinarily competent book. Gunther has described everything about Scrum in well-formed, clearly written descriptions that flow with insight, understanding, and perception. Yet, you are never struck by these attributes. You simply benefit from them, later thinking, “That was really, really helpful. I found what I needed to know, readily understood what I wanted, and wasn’t bothered by irrelevancies.”

I have struggled to write this foreword. I feel the foreword should be as well-written as the book it describes. In this case, that is hard. Read Gunther’s book. Read it in part, or read it in whole. You will be satisfied.

Scrum is simple, but complete and competent in addressing complex problems. Gunther’s pocket guide is complete and competent in addressing understanding a simple framework for addressing complex problems, Scrum.

Ken, August 2013

Preface

The use of Agile methods continues to grow traction and Scrum is the most widely adopted method for Agile software development. The general level of interest in Scrum is therefore considerable.

Transforming an organization's development approach to Scrum represents quite a challenge. Scrum is not a cookbook 'process' with detailed and exhaustive prescriptions for every imaginable situation. Scrum is a *framework* of principles, roles and rules that thrive on the *people* doing Scrum. The true potential of Scrum lies in the discovery and *emergence* of practices, tools and techniques and in optimizing them for each organization's specific context. Scrum is very much about behavior, much more than it is about process.

The benefits an organization realizes with Scrum depend on the will to remove barriers, think across boxes and embark on a journey of discovery.

The journey starts by playing Scrum. This requires knowledge of the rules of Scrum. This book describes these. This book shows how Scrum implements the Agile mindset, what the rules of the game of Scrum are, and how these rules leave room for a variety of tactics to play

the game. The introduction of all essentials of Scrum and the most common tactics for Scrum makes this book a worthwhile read for people, teams, managers and change agents, whether they are already doing Scrum or want to embark on the journey of Scrum.

Ten years ago I started my journey, my path of Agility via Scrum. It has inevitably been a cobblestone path. On my journey I have used Scrum with plenty of teams, in various projects, and at different organizations. I have worked with both large and small enterprises and have coached teams as well as executive management. I was in the fortunate position of then moving to Scrum.org. It's where I shepherd the 'Professional' series of Scrum trainings, courseware and assessments.

I thank Ken Schwaber, David Starr, Ralph Jocham, and Patricia Kong for reviewing early versions of this book and improving it with much appreciated feedback.

I thank all at Van Haren Publishing for their trust and confidence, and for giving me the chance to express my views on Scrum with this book.

I thank my colleagues at Scrum.org for our daily collaboration, the positive action and the energy, and especially Ken Schwaber for our exquisite partnership.

Enjoy reading, and... keep Scrumming.

Gunther, June 2013

Reviews

This Scrum Pocket Guide is outstanding. It is well organized, well written, and the content is excellent. This should be the de facto standard handout for all looking for a complete, yet clear overview of Scrum.

(Ken Schwaber, Scrum co-creator, Scrum.org)

Gunther has expertly packaged the right no-nonsense guidance for teams seeking agility, without a drop of hyperbole. This is the book about agility with Scrum I wish I had written.

(David Starr, Agile Craftsman, Microsoft)

During my many Scrum training activities I often get asked: “For Scrum, what is the one book to read?” In the past the answer wasn’t straight forward, but now it is! The Scrum Pocket Guide is the one book to read when starting with Scrum. It is a concise, yet complete and passionate reference about Scrum.

(Ralph Jocham, Agile Professional, effective agile.)

‘The house of Scrum is a warm house. It’s a house where people are WELCOME.’ Gunther’s passion for Scrum and its players is evident in his work and in each chapter of this book. He explains the Agile paradigm, lays out the Scrum framework and then discusses the ‘future state of Scrum.’ Intimately, in about 100 pages.

(Patricia M. Kong, Director of Partners, Scrum.org)

