

Course and Workshop Offerings

Below are the main courses and workshops that LeanAgileTraining offers. All of the courses or workshops can be done publicly or in-house. Contact us to discuss. We have also done many other courses or presentations or workshops, and lead many discussions. Again, please contact us.

A. Certified ScrumMaster course & Workshop

This is the CSM course, probably the best known of all the Scrum courses.

It is often used as the initial training for a Team, as they are introduced to Scrum. It is also used for 'remedial' training of a Team.

It covers the basics of Agile-Scrum. It covers all the roles, with a bit more emphasis on the ScrumMaster. We can of course send you a longer description of the course.

Who should attend: As already mentioned, it probably best to send a whole team and the people around the Team. Or, you can send the CEO, the senior managers, the managers, the ScrumMaster, Product Owner, the Implementers, or others, individually or as small groups. We usually recommend that POs take this course first.

We strongly recommend that you also include the Agile Release Planning workshop. We always do include it with public CSM courses, although the ARP workshop is not required to become a CSM. The ARP workshop is described below.

Pricing: A typical price for the public 2 days CSM is \$1300. For discounts, group rates, and in-house costs, please contact us.

B. Certified Scrum Product Owner course & Workshop

Conceptually, similar to the CSM course, except that it is more for product owners and key business stakeholders. We often run this as an intermediate course, especially if many or most of the attendees have taken the CSM course before.

We do review the basics of Scrum, but mostly for remedial purposes. The main focus is on how to become an outstanding PO. And how to work effectively with the PO to maximize the business value from the Team to the customers.

The ScrumMasters (or coaches) should also attend, since they must coach and work with the Product Owner. And others (such as BAs) working with the PO should also attend.

We strongly recommend that you also include an Agile Release Planning workshop. That is described below.

Pricing: Same as for a CSM course. Please contact us.

C. The Agile Release Planning Workshop

Our clients have told us that adding a 1 day (or 2 day) workshop to the course enables much more value to be obtained from the course, and overall.

The workshop is 1 day (sometimes 2 days) of using the Scrum values, principles and practices to do real project work. So, it makes the ideas from the course much more real for people.

The workshop can also be done separately, or in-house.

Specifically, the best situation is to have real teams (perhaps beginning Scrum teams) do their Release Planning (for ¼ of a day). We discuss Release Plan Refactoring (aka Product Backlog grooming or Backlog Refinement). We also have them work on the follow-through into the first Sprint. Then we walk them through the other meetings in the first sprint, helping them visualize what that first sprint will be like (this takes roughly ¼ of the day). This is done with the real project they are currently in, or, even better, the real project (effort, product) they will start on Monday.

By Release Planning, we mean: discuss Vision; develop Product Backlog; assess Business Value; assess Effort (Story Points); discuss Risks, Dependencies, and Other things; order the work; make the scope-date trade-off; calculate the cost/budget.

Again, we discuss what to do with the initial Release Plan, and how to refactor it every Sprint afterward.

It is ideal if business stakeholders can attend the workshop. Certainly it would be valuable to have the Product Owner also attend.

Other topics are sometimes included.

As the leader of the workshop, we set the agenda, coach as needed (in our view), and coach as requested. We are usually pretty busy, yet we try hard to stay out of the team's way, so that they may, to a large extent, start to self-organize. Not about what Scrum is, but about their team, the customers, the product, their work, etc, etc.

Pricing: We often bundle this with the CSM or CSPO course. We done along, we typically charge \$400 per person.

D. Story Splitting (Feature Decomposition) (1/2 day)

This workshop assumes some basic experience with user stories. We assume they can write a user story (although we do NOT assume mastery of this skill, at all). And the main problem is learning how to write smaller user stories. If the attendee has just taken our CSM courses or the Agile Release Planning workshop, then they have enough experience.

This is also a kind of Agile Requirements Workshop.

It is a great way to get all members of a project really started in the practice of writing requirements in the form of User Stories. Again, they typically have been 'introduced' before, but lack skill in implementation.

This Workshop helps them develop those important, even vital, skills.

This workshop is highly interactive and hands-on, applying the theory and concepts as they are introduced. It goes into much more detail about the process of creating and managing User Stories, and how User Stories can be used with other forms of 'requirements'.

Workshop Outline:

- Introduction to Story Splitting
- Value of Story Splitting and delivering smaller product increments
- Story Splitting Techniques (High Level & FURPS)
- Hands-on exercise with a sample product
- Instructor led exercise with a sample product
- Hands-on exercise using class participants 'real' work

E. Scaling (2 days)

This workshop will provide an overview and fairly in-depth introduction to Agile Scaling within the confines of 2 days. In this workshop, we will explore how to scale Agile from a single team to a large organization Agile transformation. We will mostly focus on the issue of multiple teams working together, and the patterns that make that more successful.

Workshop Outline:

- Introduction to Agile Scaling
- The “Don’t Scale” option (sometimes)
- Applying Scaling to the Sprint Cycle
- Implementing a Chief Product Owner & a Product Owner group
- Creating a single Product Backlog & synchronizing iterations
- Scrum of Scrums
- Other scaling patterns from ScrumPLOP
- Techniques for optimizing geographically distributed teams
- Scaling Impediment Removal
- Overview of Scaled Agile models including SAFe (Scaled Agile Framework) & LeSS (Large-Scale Scrum)

F. Kanban Workshop

The workshop is one day addressing how to use Kanban in your situation. As you know, Kanban is Japanese for card or sign board. The word today means more than that to us.

We will explore a bit of Kanban history. And more importantly, we will try to understand Kanban through the eyes of Lean, and Lean principles.

Similarly, we will explore your goals with Kanban. One aspect of this is that Kanban proper is very small; it is a good place to start with many situations, but you always want to add things to it, so we want to get an idea where you want to go with the additions.

We will then talk about visual management, and your real situation. And we will go slowly, step-by-step, and help you devise a Kanban system that will help you manage your work better.

We will also challenge you with some ideas from Scrum and XP and Agile and Lean, and ask why you cannot also add some of those to your Kanban implementation. Either now or soon. (Maybe you can or cannot; maybe you will or won't want to do so.) The main purpose here is so that you understand better WHY Kanban (as you implement it) is the better tool for the issues you have; at least for now.

We will discuss the limitations or potential pitfalls of Kanban alone. (Again, pure 'Kanban' is very very simple; surely you will add some things to it. But, how much?)

The workshop can work in many ways. The ideal situation is to have 'all' the real people (perhaps a beginning team). Perhaps managers, 'product owners' (if you use that term), and all the implementers. (Getting all the right people in one room at one time is difficult; do the best you can. The workshop should still be useful even if not everyone is there.)

We probably can address two different 'sets of work' during the day, and go into some detail. If we have only one 'workflow', we do intend to address, at some level, all your questions about how to handle the day-to-day issues of using Kanban.

Other topics are sometimes included.

G. Other Workshops

The following topics can also form a 1/2 day or whole day workshop.

- Building a vision & defining key goals
- Building a common DoD & the Ready-Ready criteria (aka Definition of Ready)
- Creating an initial product backlog (with a focus on story splitting and estimation)
- BV Engineering workshop
- Getting focus on impediments and attacking them
- Making the four Sprint Meetings more powerful (Sprint Planning Meeting, Daily Scrum, Sprint Review, Retrospective)
- Addressing Infrastructure, Architecture, and Design
- Introduction to Agile Technical Practices