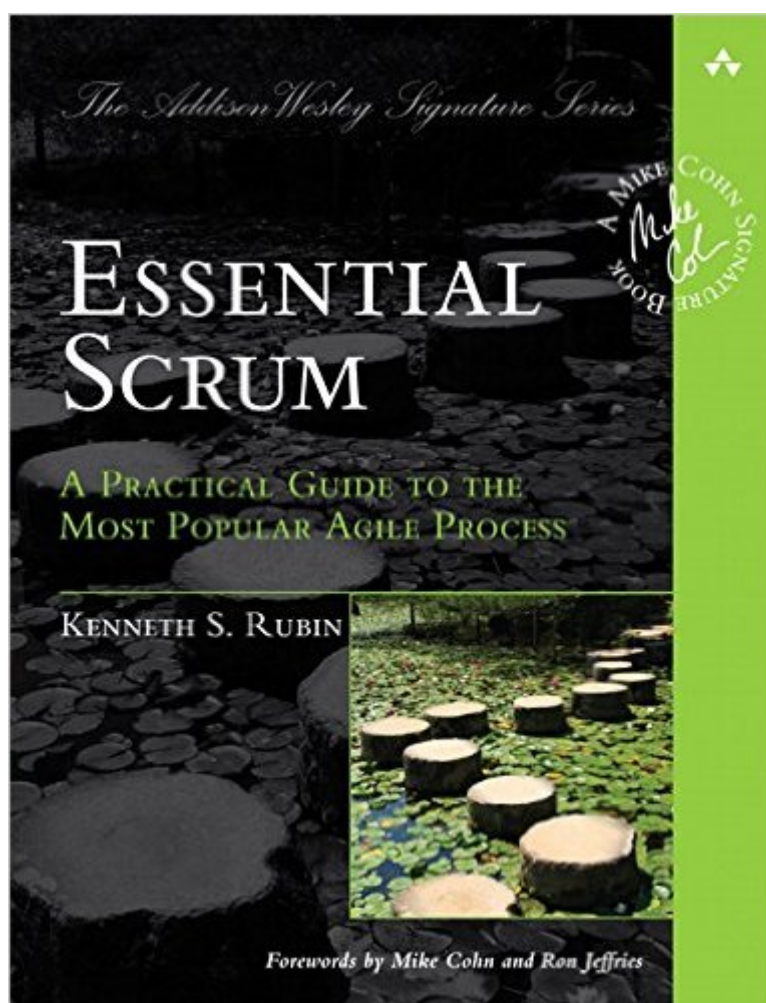# Essential Scrum: A Practical Guide To The Most Popular Agile Process (Addison-Wesley Signature Series (Cohn))

Synopsis

A Practical Guide to the Most Popular Agile Process Â   The Single-Source, Comprehensive Guide to Scrum for All Team Members, Managers, and Executives   Â

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book's title Essentials Scrum: A Practical Guide to the Most Popular Agile Process, is a perfect description of what this book is. It covers every essential that you need to know about the scrum process, and the book is written to every role in the scrum process.After a nice introductory chapter to Scrum, which includes the history of how Scrum came to be, the book breaks down into four parts. They include Core Concepts, Roles, Planning, and Sprinting. I have listed each part below along with the chapters found in each one.Chapter 1. IntroductionPart I. Core ConceptsChapter 2. Scrum FrameworkChapter 3. Agile PrinciplesChapter 4. SprintsChapter 5. Requirements and User StoriesChapter 6. Product BacklogChapter 7. Estimation and VelocityChapter 8. Technical DebtPart II. RolesChapter 9. Product OwnerChapter 10. ScrumMasterChapter 11. Development TeamChapter 12. Scrum Team StructuresChapter 13. ManagersPart III. PlanningChapter 14. Scrum Planning PrinciplesChapter 15. Multilevel PlanningChapter 16. Portfolio PlanningChapter 17. Envisioning (Product Planning)Chapter 18. Release Planning (Longer-Term Planning)Part IV. SprintingChapter 19. Sprint PlanningChapter 20. Sprint ExecutionChapter 21. Sprint ReviewChapter 22. Sprint RetrospectiveChapter 23. The Path ForwardThe author's advice on when to use Scrum is

a refreshing one. He is not one of the many Scrum zealots, mindlessly regurgitating Scrum mantras. He gives a nice overview of where Scrum works and where it doesn't in the introduction of the book. He also presents a realistic view on how difficult Scrum is.

I have read the majority of books on Agile and Scrum in my career as a coach and trainer. It is really great to see a new, fresh book show up that presents the ins and outs of Scrum very clearly. Ken Rubin's Essential Scrum is an excellent introduction for beginners as well as a good reference for practitioners. Scrum sounds simple but there is are many challenges to implementing it and making the organizational changes necessary to do it successfully. Ken's book lays out the core values, principles, concepts and practices in terms and images that are easy to understand. There are some solid, practical descriptions of planning and the Scrum meetings that are a great guide for newbies and a great refresher for Scrum leaders who may have strayed from the practices.And there is more. The book provides a very accessible treatment of three important topics that most other books miss. The importance of managing Technical Debt and the Lean concepts of Batch Size and limiting Work in Progress are essential in understanding how Scrum works and how to achieve a smooth flow for significantly higher value output. The shift in Management duties in an Agile organization is a critical aspect of cultural change. Ken also provides a short description of the topics that answer the frequently asked question "How do you scale Scrum?": Feature Teams, Scrum of Scrums and Release Trains.The descriptions of the Product Owner and Development Team roles in this book go beyond the basic introduction, describing the work of the PO in preparatory and ongoing planning and describing important characteristics of a successful Dev Team.

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