

# Agile Experience Report Author's Guide

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Are you interested in writing a paper about your agile experiences? The Agile Experience Reports Program presents a unique opportunity for you to share observations, hard fought wisdom, and practical advice about your unique agile experience.

A good experience report explains what happened, why it happened, who it happened to, and why we should care. An experience report is a firsthand description that includes your personal observations and reflections. Compelling experience reports don't always tell of glowing successes. The most thought-provoking reports tell something about the journey, too, not just the end-point. We want to hear about you and how you or your team were changed by your experience.

## **Topics you may write about may include but are not limited to:**

- How you uniquely adopted, adapted, evolved, blended or scaled agile practices?
- How you tackled architecture, development, design, usability, quality assurance, requirements or documentation, deployment, marketing, product definition, product or program management?
- How you introduced agile practices to your organization and managed the transition to an agile culture?
- What were challenges you faced? How successful were you in overcoming them? What challenges remain?
- What mistakes did you make? What insights have you gained that others need to know about?
- If you've been doing agile development for a while, how have your values or ways of working changed? What are you doing now and why?

## **How Do You Apply?**

We are interested in hearing from many diverse voices! Whether you are experienced with agile development or a newcomer, we want to hear what you've recently learned and what you are up to. First-time authors are especially encouraged to apply.

Potential authors should submit a one to two page proposal to [experiences@agilealliance.org](mailto:experiences@agilealliance.org) that highlights your agile experience. Tell a bit about yourself and your experience, why you think your experience is important to share, and one or two important lessons you learned from your experience.

We will contact you to discuss your proposal.

### **The Writing And Publishing Process**

The target length for an experience report is 6-8 pages (approximately 3500 words). Authors are requested to a single-column per page format. We have a sample experience report in Word .docx format that you can download. It includes the recommended styles to use in your report. Experience reports can include explanatory graphs, charts or photos. If you include them, make sure they are legible when your paper is viewed online and when printed.

Authors that are accepted into the Experience Report Program will be assigned a shepherd. That shepherd will guide and offer constructive advice as you write their report.

Shepherds work closely with authors, reviewing drafts and freely giving advice. Shepherds ask clarifying questions and suggest improvements. But ultimately, it is you, the author, who decides what to tell and how to tell it. A shepherd is not an editor, although they may generously make detailed comments on how to revise your paper.

Once the shepherd agrees that your report is complete, a final editing pass will be made before the paper is published.

The time it takes to write a paper depends on the energy and effort you put into writing. Some authors start with a well-formed story and quickly write a first draft. Others need more time and guidance time to find their writing rhythm. It is typical for papers to undergo several revisions. It is important that authors respond quickly to their shepherd's comments and suggestions and establish a regular writing schedule that fits into their life and work. Most authors complete a paper within two to three months.

Authors retain the copyright to their paper and agree to share it with the Agile Alliance. Completed papers will be published on the Agile Alliance website soon after they are completed. Published authors will be also invited to give a presentation about their experience at an upcoming agile conference.