



Should You Consider Moving from Scrum to Kanban?

Aki Namioka, from Marchex, helped move her team from Scrum to Kanban when they were suddenly met with new challenges caused by a new dev environment, a new technology to learn, and a rapidly increasing backlog.

Is your team facing challenges that might be solved by moving to Kanban?

Some Questions to Consider

Backlog in Flux

1. Does your backlog fluctuate frequently? Are more stories added to it frequently?
2. Do you have a constant stream of “fixes” to attend to in addition to new stories?

Story Point Estimations

3. Do you have a good handle on your story point estimations? Are you accurately portraying your work done?
4. Are your stories too big?
5. Is team morale sinking because progress isn't being displayed in a meaningful, concrete way?

What is Working Well for You?

6. What are the things that are working well for you that you might want to keep even if you decide to change your workflow style? (e.g. pair programming, retrospectives, some version of story points)

Learning from Namioka's Team

New Practices Implemented by Namioka's Team

- Weekly 1 hour planning meetings on Mondays
- Weekly 1 hour retrospectives on Fridays
- New measuring stick: 1 point = ½ ideal work day per pair
- No story can be bigger than 8 points

- Daily standup focuses on moving stories across the board (not individuals' work)
- Pairs were assigned at standup
- 16th minute for discussions about things other than stories
- Work in Progress (WIP) = 1 for each pair of developers on the team

How They Made the Transition

- They had a Lean Coffee session where they came up with a set of new practices
- They transitioned at the end of their previous sprint boundary
- They planned for one week at the beginning (and kept that schedule later as well)
- They created smaller stories

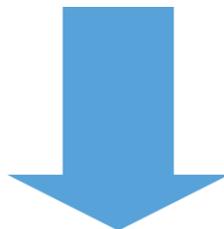
Things that Helped Them Make the Transition

- Experienced team leadership to guide the process
- The organization was already Agile
- Many were already somewhat familiar with Kanban
- They decided to keep a weekly cadence, even though Kanban doesn't require that
- They had an experienced Kanban team close by

How the Team Felt about the New System

- Loved the feeling of progress being made
- They liked that the backlog was more visible because it was always being talked about
- They liked the just-in-time planning
- They liked smaller stories

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