

# **Introduction:** to our UNIQUE Agile Release Planning Workshop

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# Reminder

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- I can send you a PDF of this slide deck...
- If I already have it **connected** to this webinar.
- ...OR, you add your email in the chat (or email it to me)



# Agenda

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1. Unique Agile Release Planning workshop
2. Workshop details
3. Information about Online

- Some quick basics
- Your questions
- *Let's talk ~30 minutes*



# Agile Release Planning

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- It's a key problem area.
- It is the start, and if you do not start well... it's messy.
- It is complex, but we simplify it to help you learn.
- In doing it, you learn key, *absolutely key*, basic skills.
- We make it **real**.



# Benefits

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- You can do it better!
  - At the high level and the low level
- You learn to teach it better!
- You can address key problems blocking Agile success
- You can use it to change the culture
- You get certified



# ONE: The Unique Agile Release Planning workshop

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# Agile Release Planning

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- “Agile Release Planning” is my name for a set of basic ideas and practices
- Key ideas:
  - Adaptive planning
  - Revise the plan continuously, as we get smarter
  - We always are missing a lot up-front.
  - Planning > Plan
  - But: The date is important.



# We are Unique - 1

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- Our approach is Unique
- We co-trained 8 times with Jeff Sutherland
- We took Ken Schwaber's CSM course initially in 2005
- We have an MBA
- We teach Agile Release Planning in our CSM and CSPO courses
- Almost every week we lead an Agile Release Planning workshop
- We have 20+ years of experience with all kinds of projects, but we are not a former coder or tester. Business viewpoint.





## Unique - 2

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- We are not a former coder or tester. Business viewpoint. MBA also.
- **Follow-up via our free Webinars**
- We have written two books:
  - Agile Release Planning
  - A Scrum Introduction
- We have two blogs:
  - on LeanAgileTraining.com
  - on LinkedIn
- We are positioned to help you become better
- We deal, better, with the specific issues at your place and in your situation



# Workshop!

- Real work & right-sized
- A key difference...
- Real work from a company or organization
- Real work from one of the participants in your “Team” (of ~4 people)
- And real people in your new “Team”



## Two formats

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- 8 hours
- H-H or F
- Online or in-person



## Two Types

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- Given publicly nearly every week.
- OR: You can do it in-house - just for people in your team or your company.
- If you have 3 of your people in a public workshop, it has similar benefits.



# Approaches

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- Many, including...
- Personal
- Conversational
- Interactive
- Humorous
- Straight-forward
- Fun
- Engaging



# Pieces - 1

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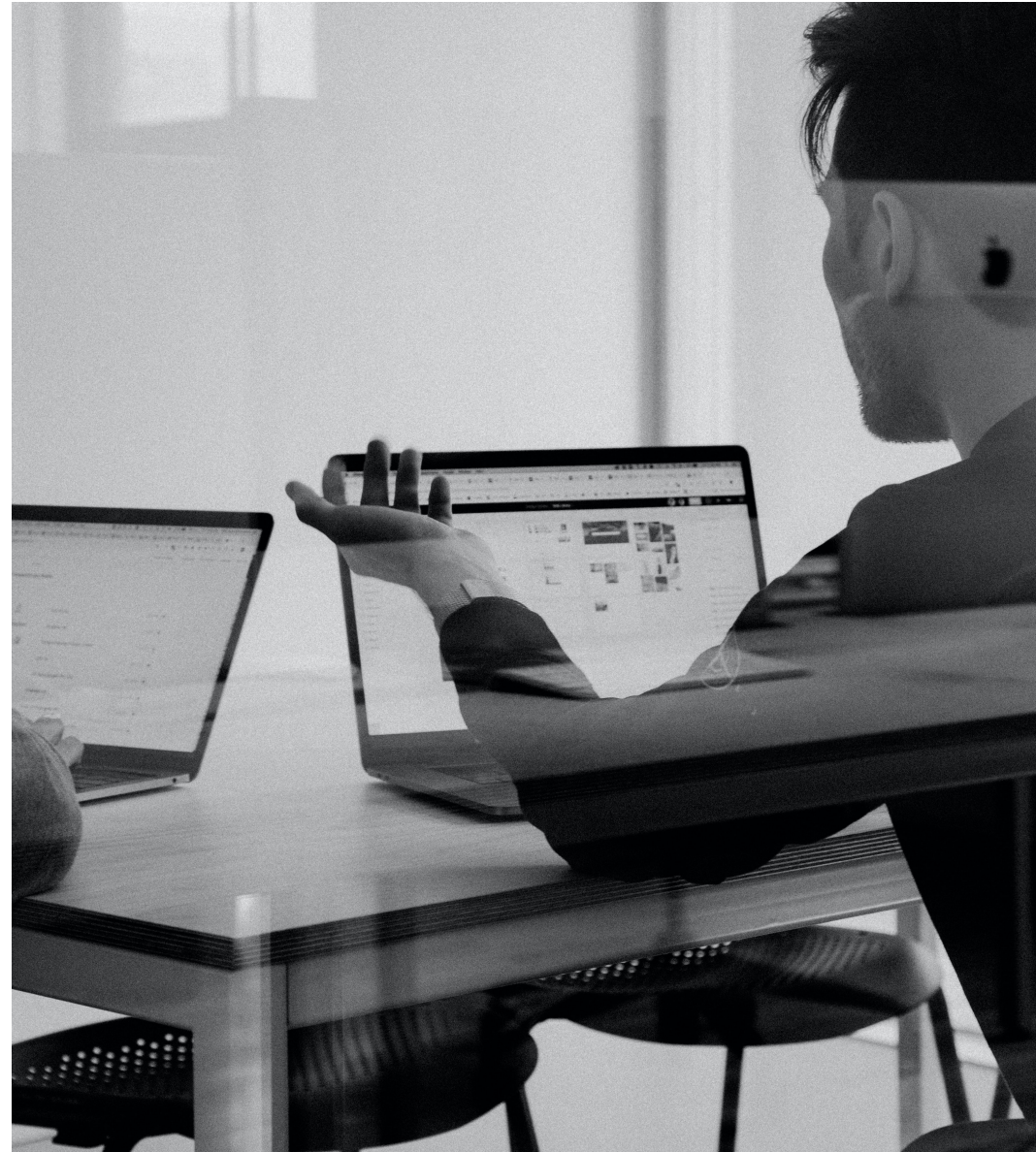
- Vision
- User Stories
- Drivers
- BV Points
- Story Points
- ROI factor



## Pieces - 2

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- Other factors (for ordering)
- Using Velocity
- Laying out in Sprints
- Contingency
- Landing Strip (final testing, etc)
- Identify the first date
- Discuss evolution



# Continual improvement

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- PB Refinement (how to do it)
- Revising the Plan
- Changing the culture





# Attitudes & Culture

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- We have a plan (always revising)
- BUT KEY:
- We are changing the culture
- Changing the attitudes toward success, toward planning, toward pressure on the team, toward “the Plan”
- We are using the tools to have a better life



## Results — 1

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- We have some initial plays to audible from. (*football metaphor*)
- The team sees the **same elephant**.
- The team is more **motivated** (they helped create the plan).
- The team has shared the **tacit knowledge**.
- We can now prioritize our stupidity.
- We have an initial plan (always not very good) and we can improve.



## Results — 2

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- The people in the workshop don't just have new ideas — they also have an Agile experience.
- ARP is the **best way** to get the team ready to be successful.
- The ARP workshop is the **best way** to teach these key skill sets and to have them experience many of the Agile values.
- **One example:** They see with real work that we spend more time planning, but we never believe any plan. We always expect the future to be different.
- And they see that the next revised plan is likely to be better...



# TWO: Workshop Details

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# Agile Release Planning workshop

- Real work
- Real work from one of the participants in your “Team” (or 4 people)
- PO is usually the person linked (most) to the real work



## Better situation

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- More than 1 “table” in the room
- All teams learn from each other



# Comments

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- You are very active with your Team, most of the time
- AND...plenty of opportunity to ask questions
- Questions often in the form of:  
“How do I get my team to do [X]...?”



## Attendees say...

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- Should be required
- Essential
- This is when everything came together for me
- Now I can do agile!
  
- Learning by doing
- Attendees strongly recommend





# In-House

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- We also do the ARP workshop as an in-house workshop
- Contact me to discuss



## Date/Time: We can negotiate

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- Open to your proposals of date, esp. if you have 3+ people
- Open to start at different times
- (I usually do 8:30 - 5:30 — or 8:30 - 12:30 —but open to your needs)
- Contact me!



# Sign-up

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- You can sign up easily online here (and see the schedule) - FREQUENT:
  - <https://leanagiletraining.com/lean-agile-and-scrum-courses/>
- The next in-person workshops:
  - Charlotte, Feb 20: <https://leanagiletraining.com/courses/agile-release-planning-charlotte-2025-0220-2/>
  - Charleston, Mar 6: <https://leanagiletraining.com/courses/agile-release-planning-charleston-2025-0306/>
  - Toronto, Mar 27: <https://leanagiletraining.com/courses/agile-release-planning-toronto-2025-0327-2/>
- The next online workshop, TBD. March?
- Or: LET'S TALK!



## Links:

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- If you want a workshop on a given date, tell us. We hope to accommodate you.
- Each workshop listing on LAT has some **more details**.
- Another **Write-up** (you will see one on this page):
- <https://leanagiletraining.com/lean-agile-and-scrum-courses/scrums-and-agile-course-descriptions/>



# THREE: Online

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# Online

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- Some courses/workshops are online
  - We are also doing in-person workshops
- We recommend the Half-day format. (It's tough to be on Zoom all day)
- Sometimes Half-day fits families better (eg, baby sitting) — or doing other work that same day
- We also offer Full-day format (for those who need/prefer that)



# Online Tools

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- Zoom for now
- Break-out rooms
- [mural.co](https://mural.co) - an online simultaneous collaboration platform
  - Mainly for “stickies”
  - “Steal” it for your remote team
- Hand drawn pictures and notes. Via Good Notes app on iPad Pro with Apple pencil. Will send as PDF.



# FOUR: Discussion / Questions

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# Our Webinars

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- Two types:
  - About our courses and workshops (30 mins)
  - About agile topics, or ideas to improve (60 mins)
- You are welcome to BOTH. Both free.



## Next Webinars Sessions...

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- What is the best topic for a future session?
- You can suggest...
- Please contact me with suggestions.  
[jhlittle@leanagiletraining.com](mailto:jhlittle@leanagiletraining.com)
- Next Webinars (free):
- <https://leanagiletraining.com/lean-agile-and-scrum-courses/>
- MEETUP:
- [https://www.meetup.com/lat\\_webinars/](https://www.meetup.com/lat_webinars/)



# CLOSING

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- Thank you!
- I'm always happy to discuss further.

Joseph Little

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