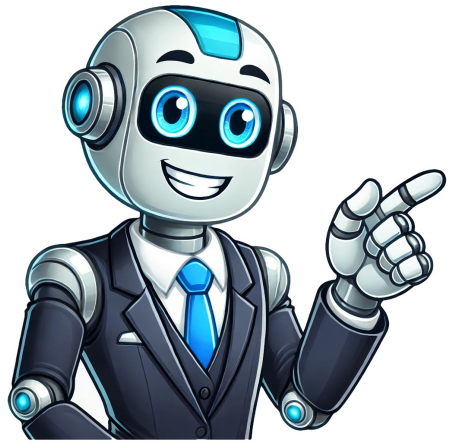


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Agile release management

This leads to lesser confusion, lesser conflict, and more visibility towards who is doing what.Like we always say, Zoho runs on Zoho, and we built Zoho Sprints using Zoho Sprints. Sprint planning handles short-term tasks, while release planning connects these tasks to your overall product goals and deadlines. This precautionary measure safeguards data integrity and provides a safety net in case of unforeseen complications during the release process. A good release manager understands the importance of following established processes and guidelines to maintain consistency and reliability in the release cycle. Systematic planning at every stage of the software release process gives you numerous advantages over an organization that doesn't do the same.1. Streamlined software deliveryThe major direct effect of a structured release management process is quicker and more efficient delivery. navigate Agile release management's complexities Hence, Agile training plays a crucial role in empowering product owners to effectively navigate the complexities of Agile release management. All through your release cycle, you will get feedback from different channels—stakeholders, customers, or internal users. Follow a Release Checklist: Utilize a comprehensive release checklist to ensure that no crucial steps or details are overlooked during the release process. This eliminates any confusion during the release-planning meeting. The process aims to improve the quality, speed, and efficiency of software development. They oversee the deployment of software to production, including testing and post-deployment monitoring. The release cycle should always be driven by those closest to the project. It also emphasizes communication and collaboration among stakeholders, as well as feedback gathering and continuous improvement. Depending on your team structure and the size of the project, you may even have several sprints running at the same time.A sprint ends with a new product increment, but that may not mean a product release happens. You only need a manual trigger. Backup Databases Before Releases: Prioritize backing up databases before deploying releases. Then, synthesize the collected feedback to create actionable work items for the next release.The agile release management process flow is based on a concept called continuous development. The process aims to improve the quality, speed, and efficiency of software development and meet the needs of stakeholders. Although release management was already a distinct process since ITIL 3, its importance grew exponentially in ITIL 4 due to these developments. Instead, it batches iterations or sprints together into releases.Those not familiar with the Agile process tend to worry each version of a product becomes a random collection of features, but a release plan actually ensures that you create a coherent version of your product every time. Consider Staged Rollouts: Instead of making all features available to all users simultaneously, opt for a staged rollout approach. By delivering software with new features, bug fixes, and improvements, organizations meet customer expectations, address their needs, and maintain a competitive advantage. Sort the barrage of feedback based on criticality and relevance to avoid getting overwhelmed or misled by them. But you'll only release the big ones (1.1 and 1.2, etc.)Using a release plan helps you plan which product increments (versions) get released to the market and when. It differs from traditional software planning where you focus on major releases.In Agile release planning, you prepare for staged releases and then break those down into several different sprints or iterations. An Agile approach to software development brings several advantages that contribute to better release planning. Effective agile release management relies on robust processes, tools, and automation. You can also see the distribution of your builds across production environments or their build status.Learn how to plan, coordinate, and verify the deployment of IT solutions into production with release management. Agile Release Management Best Practices Here are some of the best practices for release management in Agile management: Design a Single Release Management System: Develop a unified release management system that can be implemented consistently throughout the software development life cycle (SDLC). Whether it's a product launch, subsequent versions, or a quick update for bug fixes, all releases go through a release management lifecycle. A release is a collection of user stories from one or more products, created by a product owner and guided by a release plan. Improving Efficiency and Resource Utilization: By strategically planning and scheduling releases, organizations can avoid resource conflicts, allocate resources efficiently, and minimize wastage. However, an Agile release plan doesn't oust the work in each release. Standard release reports about downtime, type and priority of releases, and number of on-time releases can yield valuable insights about the work dynamic of your team.Having an effective release management process is nowadays a must-have rather than an optional bonus. They can then choose to release according to their business requirements. Teams also get the opportunity to improve their skills with each cycle continuously.3. Lesser risk, happier customersWhen the releases go through comprehensive testing, the probability of encountering problems and bugs is minimized. Release managers possess strong management skills, including effective organization, efficient time management, and crucially, adeptly managing people and their contributions. The release manager is responsible for coordinating the different stages of the release process, including planning, development, testing, deployment, and monitoring. The benefits of an effortless release without the integration hassles outweigh the costs of setting up automated tests. The repeated and feedback cycles lead to the creation of better quality software. Take a deep dive into the trending Agile Category Courses Importance of Agile Release Management Release management is incredibly important in the agile software development and deployment process. They're aware of the complexities in development and operations, and act as a catalyst in coordinating the different teams and departments involved in a release.They are adept at managing time, money, and people. Honing this skill is an art that improves with practice, so don't be afraid to adjust your release plan and your sprint planning as you go. But, just because you have a finished draft for your client (editor, publisher, etc.) to review doesn't mean you release it to the public.You might create versions 1.1, 1.12, 1.14, 1.2, and so on, each one incorporating the new features and improvements of the last. One of the key aspects of agile release management is to find the right balance between delivering new features and functionalities without compromising the reliability of the existing software. In a perfect world, everything would always go according to plan.Development teams and project managers alike know just how important it is to stay on top of story points and the number of sprints it takes to see product launch through how they manage Agile release planning is at the core of this. Marketing and Customer Relations teams coordinate with developers to create awareness and support material about the new feature for end users. That's what being Agile is all about.Start your Agile iteration planningAgile release planning is the antidote to aimless development. 6. How Release Management Works? Facilitating Collaboration and Communication: Release management promotes effective collaboration and communication among different teams involved in the software development and deployment process. Customers who reach out with questions or feedback are often the ones actively using your product. Since the focus of Scrum is on shorter sprints, some teams actually work without release planning at all.Instead, they just release the product increment. 2. They recognize the value of automation in streamlining release processes and reducing manual efforts. Frequent downtime and conspicuous bugs could result in your revenue taking a hit.Multiple delivery teams often work in parallel in an organization, which can sometimes lead to conflicting release schedules or dependencies. Teams practicing continuous delivery extract builds for each commit, verify it using automated testing, and have it ready to deploy at any time. Break down your desired outcomes into specific user stories and add them to your backlog.Prioritize the backlog, based on the desired outcomes, starting with an MVP (minimum viable product). Below are the steps of preparation: Develop and test the release package. Gradually releasing features to a smaller subset of users allows for controlled testing and ensures that any issues affecting a limited user base can be addressed promptly. The release management team will closely work with operations team to perform configuration management. Release planning, on the other hand, looks at the bigger picture, coordinating multiple sprints to achieve a bigger product update. Managing infrastructure configuration It is the process of managing the configuration of applications, topology, and infrastructure. Release management process involves planning, building, testing, deploying, and supporting a software release. In case of any issues, they troubleshoot, determine the root cause, and develop solutions. Continuous deployment means the team actually deploys continuously with no human involvement in the release process.Continuous IntegrationContinuous DeliveryContinuous Deployment These three practices together are called continuous software development and are associated with Agile methodologies and DevOps. It involves dividing the development into iterative sprints, each with a specific scope and time frame. When you are working in an agile project or aim to use agile methods, agile release planning can be a critical technique for IT- and product-centric projects. In preparation for upcoming releases, holding a well-organized release planning meeting ensures that everyone is on the same page regarding both the release schedule and product goals. The release manager identifies and manages risks associated with the release process and maintains open communication with the development team regarding responsibilities and deadlines. To understand the impact of a release, it's important to identify relevant metrics and monitor them continuously. This knowledge helps them anticipate potential risks and mitigate issues proactively. In Agile release planning, you prepare for staged releases and then break those down into several different sprints or iterations. The Agile method of release is all about planning, building, and delivering small pieces of your product in short cycles called sprints. They are dedicated to ensuring high-quality releases and optimizing efficiency throughout the release process. Enhancing Customer Satisfaction: Timely and reliable releases contribute to enhanced customer satisfaction. tool.In Zoho Sprints, integrate with your code repository tools so that your work items get more context with commit details, plan and track your releases, set up your CI/CD workflow in Jenkins, and monitor your build reports directly from our native application. So, what qualities define a proficient release manager? We understand that a release involves multiple teams and multiple tools, and so we brought it together in one platform for a seamless view of your entire release workflow. While continuous integration places emphasis on automated testing, continuous delivery goes a step further to automate your release process. The release package is tested by running automated and manual tests to ensure that it is stable and functional. Sprint planning and release planning are like two sides of the Agile coin. 3. Continuous development is the ability to get changes of all types—such as new features, configuration changes, bug fixes, and experiments—into production or into the hands of users safely, quickly, and sustainably. Overall, release management is of utmost importance in the software development and deployment process. Think about writing a book — each sprint should end with a new draft. Gradually iterate on your release management practices, automate repetitive tasks, and refine your approach based on feedback and lessons learned from previous releases. Deployment Deployment encompasses the transition from development to the live operational environment, where end-users can access and utilize the software. This streamlines the release lifecycle and improves efficiency. Quality standards and defect-free deliverables are a top priority under their responsibility. The release management teams support the delivery team in deployment testing. There are three closely related yet distinct practices in play. Roles and Responsibilities of Release Manager The role of a release manager in Agile is to ensure that software releases are delivered on time and meet the needs of customers and stakeholders. Supporting Delivery Teams Supporting delivery teams is crucial for the success of any project. It focuses on documenting and gathering information about problems, concerns, or incidents that occur within the release package. Reporting on release status, including testing and deployment progress, is another crucial aspect of their role. Agile Release Management Process Flow Below is a diagram of release management process flow: Release Management Cycle A release management cycle refers to the sequence of activities and processes involved in managing the release of software or product updates. To effectively carry out their responsibilities, release managers can benefit from Certified Scrum Product Owner (CSPO) training. This helps identify any potential issues or bugs. The ITIL release management process involves different stages such as planning, preparation, execution, and monitoring. For example, the ability of a user to access different analytics reports on the mobile app. Determining Production Readiness Before you deploy the release, it's crucial to carry out a final review to consider any new information or insights gathered during testing. This is done to optimize resource utilization, avoid any conflicts in the shared operational environment and ensure harmonized deployment process. It encompasses various stages from initial planning to final deployment and monitoring. They possess a comprehensive understanding of the interconnected dependencies between projects, functions, and departments within the organization. This promotes efficiency, standardization, and a shared understanding of the release process. Train support staff. It contributes to customer satisfaction, operational efficiency, risk mitigation, and business growth. Agile release planning is listed as a scheduling technique in the PMBOK ... CSPO training provides them with a comprehensive understanding of Agile principles, product ownership, and stakeholder management. Having a concrete to-do list gives your team a transparent view of what's planned for the next release and what they'll be working on in the upcoming ones.An exhaustive checklist of things to double-check before a release can help eliminate a lot of human errors. It adds a final level of security, which can catch fine details that are likely to be overlooked. Release managers have the technical skills required to operate and manage source code repositories effectively, ensuring proper version control and code integrity. To navigate this environment, software engineering processes must be well synchronized, and release management helps achieve this. Monitor the release. Planning Release Schedule Software release planning revolves around establishing a desired schedule for various software release dates and ensuring adherence to that schedule. Testing After product development, the release undergoes testing, and the team may make changes before the release is approved. Some methods will choose to prescribe a single approach to Release Management, but the Disciplined Agile® (DA™) tool kit promotes an adaptive, context-sensitive strategy. The quality assurance (QA) team does a thorough check on the final product. It serves as a roadmap for the entire release process. This means you can release to your customers any time your business requires it—reliable releases in a quick and sustainable way. In fact, implementing Agile can help you cut your time to market for a new product by up to 70%.When does release planning happen in Scrum?Release planning comes after you've outlined your product vision and roadmap. In addition to viewing your log reports from Jenkins, you can also monitor your team's release activity using our build reports. Change requests are submitted through established channels and assessed considering factors such as necessity, feasibility, cost, and other relevant criteria. It ensures that the release is executed according to plan, any issues or risks are promptly identified and addressed, and the desired results are achieved. Let's break them down:On an average day, Amazon deploys code every 11.7 seconds! The practice of continuous integration advises developers to merge their code with the main repository as often as possible. Incorporating customer feedback early and often can help mitigate some of these issues.In this article, we'll break down Agile release planning from A to Z, and show you how to implement it in your own company from planning meetings to where you can create your own agile release plan template.Try monday devWhat is Agile release planning?Agile release planning is a product management method where you plan incremental releases of a product. Engage with them to know how your end users perceive a feature and to understand where you can improve. A blotchy release with bugs and crashes could drive away potential customers and disappoint existing ones. This allows for ample troubleshooting time during regular work hours if any problems arise, minimizing potential disruptions or extended downtime. Managing a release is fairly similar to managing a project, so it's crucial that release managers possess project management skills as well.Ensure your backlog is prioritized at all times. Continuously Improve Release Management: Treat release management as an ongoing process of improvement. During the deployment process, users are provided with training on the software update, and team members carry out an evaluation or examination of its performance and the success of the deployment. Sometimes, a feature is deployed incrementally—first to internal users of the organization, then to a select user community, before finally making it available for everyone. Issue Reporting and Collection Issue reporting and collection is a crucial process in the release management cycle. They facilitate collaborative teamwork, understanding the dynamics of working with diverse individuals and teams. It involves various activities such as planning a release schedule, defining release goals and priorities, assessing resource availability, estimating time and effort, among others. This is done to double-check that the release aligns with the standards and requirements set during the planning stage. Understanding your customers' active hours enables better damage control and a more efficient resolution process. The team can also be solely responsible for the plan depending on your company structure.The Scrum team is often better connected to the current state of the software and all the different stakeholders, so they tend to lead the decision-making. It goes through unit testing, integration testing, acceptance, and UI testing. 5. Agile release management also involves managing the deployment process, ensuring smooth transitions from development environments to production environments. It deals with the inherent unpredictability of software development, where stakeholder requirements keep changing and the environment of compliance and regulation continues to shift. Sprint planning is all about figuring out what needs to get done in the next sprint—right here, right now. This feedback offers a starting point for enhancements or new features. Everyone from product managers to developers to customers gets involved in this hands-on process. You can give your stakeholders exactly what they want, without inconveniencing existing customers.monday.com even has an Agile planning template where you can easily break down your Agile release plan into tangible iterations.Try monday dev Release planning in Agile is about mapping out and scheduling smaller updates for a product. Since new changes are made available to end users with almost no human buffer in the middle, continuous deployment requires post-release monitoring to catch any bugs that may have slipped through the automated tests.Continuous Integration is about developing and testing code with automation, ensuring only good code becomes a part of the software product. For Agile frameworks that don't use a product backlog, like Feature-Driven Development, review the equivalent item. If not, backlog refinement. Implement Continuous Integration: Adopt continuous integration practices to enhance the quality of your releases. 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