

Want the Keys to Self-Managing Agile Teams? Don't Forget Context!

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How well does your team self-manage? How well can your team self-manage?

Does your team understand your project management context?

Context is one of the keys that unlock team results. All team members must understand their context in order to self-manage and create the big wins that Agile Software Development promised you.

Unfortunately for most teams, context is the *missing* key!

Too many Agile teams struggle to develop a basic understanding of their project's management context (sometimes for years). That prevents them from self-managing at more than a basic level.

The Liftoff, framework proposed by Diana Larsen and Ainsley Nies, identifies three keys to launching successful teams: Purpose, Alignment and Context. So why do so many teams miss out on context?

I think we miss Context because we've taken the time to teach Scrum Product Owners a little bit about Purpose. We've taught Scrum Masters a little bit about Alignment. But then we ignored the Project Managers—the experts with the skills and experience to help the team understand Context—because there's no team role for a Project Manager on a Scrum Team.

What are you going to do about that? During this webinar, I'll give you three concrete tools that you can use in any role to charter context with your team at any time.

Learning Outcomes:

- Describe the importance of chartering context to support systems thinking in your project / product teams.
- Propose team discussions around boundaries and interactions, dependencies, and risks and opportunities
- Record lightweight documentation to capture the contextual understanding that emerges in your team.

(Attribution: This talk is based on From Kickoff to Liftoff: Don't Forget Context! co-created by Ellen Grove and Steve Holyer.)



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About Steve Holyer



Steve Holyer is an Agile Product Development Coach.

Steve has been practising Agile Product Development by doing it, and helping others do it, for over 10 years as Product Owner, Scrum Master, Trainer, Coach and Consultant—plus he worked for many years as programmer, team leader and project manager before that. Steve is available to work around the world (both on-site and remotely). Steve has clients in many sectors—especially banking, telecommunication, and higher education.

Steve is most passionate working with web development agencies and app development houses. He mastered his own Agile practice working for agencies on the frontiers of Agile, so he understands the context, the challenges, and the possibilities. If you want to use Agile methods to win contracts and successfully deliver applications to a customer's "spec," Steve will work with your agency so that you get the abundant results that Agile promises—in a predictable, measurable, and totally Agile way.

<http://stev holyer.com/>

Join us for a webinar on May 16, 2018, 12:00 PM EDT.

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