A Day in the Life of a

Scrum Master

Simon Wraight from our Digital and Cloud team discusses his role.

How did you get into the role of a Scrum Master?

I've been working in IT for around 12 years after attending University as a mature student, whilst running a Plastering business at the same time! Starting out as a Web Application Developer in 2008, I moved on to become a team leader and soon after a Scrum Master. From there I took a role as a Development Manager for a few years. I missed working with Scrum teams and so I moved into Agile Coaching before taking my current role with Version 1 as a Scrum Master.

Describe your average day as Scrum Master at Version 1?

In our current project, I am Scrum Master with two teams, working in two week sprints. I facilitate Scrum events, coach, teach, help, and anything else that is needed to motivate the team to deliver and to grow. Our Product Owner is also our customer and I spend much of my time working with her, coaching her and helping with the backlog. Our team is distributed and so our working hours are flexible as long as we can cover core hours when the whole team can be together.

What rituals/recurring tasks does your role typically entail every day?

My typical recurring tasks would be the Scrum Events, I attend daily 15 minute meetings with each team. I spend time 1-1 with people to check everything is good for them, this is particularly important during the pandemic. I work closely with the Project Manager of the wider project as well as the Architect and Tech Lead. Ultimately my job is about people with a little bit of making sure everyone can understand what the team are working on and how much time it is taking them.

What are the best AND most challenging parts of your job?

I most enjoy seeing people enjoy their work, enjoying working as a team and being proud of what they deliver. I least enjoy when conflict within a team cannot be resolved. Thankfully, this is rare.

What advice would you give to someone looking to become a Scrum Master?

I think a technical background helps in my role but it is not mandatory, you do need to be a people person, caring about your team and believing in their success more than your own. You also need to be passionate about what you are doing if you want people to listen.

Describe your job in 5 words or less.

Helping people be their best.