

WHEN MULTIPLE SCRUM TEAMS ARE WORKING ON THE SAME PRODUCT, SHOULD ALL THEIR INCREMENTS

WHEN MULTIPLE SCRUM TEAMS ARE WORKING ON THE SAME PRODUCT, SHOULD ALL THEIR INCREMENTS IS A COMMON QUESTION IN LARGE-SCALE AGILE ENVIRONMENTS. AS ORGANIZATIONS GROW AND PROJECTS BECOME MORE COMPLEX, MULTIPLE SCRUM TEAMS OFTEN COLLABORATE SIMULTANEOUSLY TO DELIVER VALUE FASTER AND MORE EFFICIENTLY. HOWEVER, COORDINATING THESE TEAMS AND ENSURING THAT THEIR WORK ALIGNS TOWARDS A COMMON GOAL RAISES IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS ABOUT THE NATURE OF INCREMENTS, INTEGRATION, AND OVERALL PRODUCT COHERENCE. IN THIS COMPREHENSIVE ARTICLE, WE WILL EXPLORE THE BEST PRACTICES, CHALLENGES, AND STRATEGIC APPROACHES TO MANAGING MULTIPLE SCRUM TEAMS WORKING ON THE SAME PRODUCT, WITH A FOCUS ON WHETHER ALL THEIR INCREMENTS SHOULD BE INTEGRATED INTO A SINGLE, COHESIVE PRODUCT RELEASE.

UNDERSTANDING SCRUM AND THE CONCEPT OF INCREMENTS

WHAT IS AN INCREMENT IN SCRUM?

AN INCREMENT IN SCRUM REFERS TO THE SUM OF ALL THE PRODUCT BACKLOG ITEMS COMPLETED DURING A SPRINT, COMBINED WITH THE VALUE OF THE INCREMENTS OF ALL PREVIOUS SPRINTS. IT MUST BE IN A USABLE CONDITION REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE PRODUCT OWNER DECIDES TO RELEASE IT. THE KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF A SCRUM INCREMENT ARE:

- POTENTIALLY SHIPPABLE: IT CAN BE RELEASED TO CUSTOMERS OR STAKEHOLDERS.
- ADDITIVE: IT BUILDS UPON PREVIOUS INCREMENTS, CONTRIBUTING TO THE OVERALL PRODUCT.
- QUALITY ASSURED: IT ADHERES TO THE DEFINITION OF DONE (DoD).

ROLE OF INCREMENTS IN SCRUM FRAMEWORK

IN SCRUM, INCREMENTS ARE THE CORE DELIVERABLES THAT DEMONSTRATE PROGRESS. THEY PROVIDE TRANSPARENCY, ALLOW FOR FEEDBACK, AND ENABLE STAKEHOLDERS TO ASSESS THE PRODUCT'S EVOLUTION. WHEN MULTIPLE TEAMS ARE INVOLVED, THE QUESTION ARISES: SHOULD EACH TEAM'S INCREMENT BE INTEGRATED INTO A SINGLE, UNIFIED PRODUCT?

CHALLENGES OF MULTIPLE SCRUM TEAMS WORKING ON THE SAME PRODUCT

MANAGING MULTIPLE SCRUM TEAMS INTRODUCES SEVERAL CHALLENGES, INCLUDING:

1. COORDINATION AND SYNCHRONIZATION

ENSURING THAT ALL TEAMS ARE ALIGNED REGARDING GOALS, ARCHITECTURE, AND INTEGRATION POINTS CAN BE COMPLEX. WITHOUT PROPER SYNCHRONIZATION, TEAMS MIGHT DEVELOP INCOMPATIBLE COMPONENTS.

2. CROSS-TEAM DEPENDENCIES

DEPENDENCIES BETWEEN TEAMS CAN CAUSE BOTTLENECKS, DELAYS, AND INTEGRATION ISSUES.

3. CONSISTENCY AND COHERENCE

DIFFERENT TEAMS MIGHT INTERPRET REQUIREMENTS DIFFERENTLY, LEADING TO INCONSISTENCIES IN THE PRODUCT.

4. COMMUNICATION OVERHEAD

FREQUENT COMMUNICATION IS NECESSARY TO KEEP ALL TEAMS ALIGNED, WHICH CAN BECOME CUMBERSOME AT SCALE.

5. INTEGRATION RISKS

INTEGRATING MULTIPLE INCREMENTS FROM DIFFERENT TEAMS INCREASES THE RISK OF INCOMPATIBILITY AND DEFECTS.

SHOULD ALL SCRUM TEAMS' INCREMENTS BE COMBINED INTO A SINGLE PRODUCT RELEASE?

THE CORE QUESTION IS WHETHER ALL INDIVIDUAL TEAM INCREMENTS SHOULD BE INTEGRATED INTO A SINGLE, COHESIVE RELEASE OR WHETHER THEY CAN BE RELEASED SEPARATELY. THE ANSWER DEPENDS ON SEVERAL FACTORS, INCLUDING THE PRODUCT'S NATURE, STAKEHOLDERS' NEEDS, AND ORGANIZATIONAL GOALS.

ADVANTAGES OF COMBINING ALL INCREMENTS

- UNIFIED USER EXPERIENCE: DELIVERING A COMPLETE, INTEGRATED PRODUCT.
- SIMPLIFIED RELEASE PROCESS: ONE COMPREHENSIVE DEPLOYMENT.
- CONSISTENT ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN: ENSURING UNIFORMITY ACROSS FEATURES.
- ENHANCED STAKEHOLDER CONFIDENCE: SHOWING A FULLY FUNCTIONAL, TESTED PRODUCT.

DISADVANTAGES OF COMBINING ALL INCREMENTS

- DELAYED RELEASES: WAITING FOR ALL TEAMS TO COMPLETE THEIR WORK CAN SLOW DOWN VALUE DELIVERY.
- COMPLEX INTEGRATION EFFORTS: INCREASED RISK AND EFFORT TO COMBINE COMPONENTS.
- POTENTIAL FOR SCOPE CREEP: COMBINING MULTIPLE FEATURES MIGHT LEAD TO SCOPE EXPANSION.
- REDUCED FLEXIBILITY: LESS OPPORTUNITY TO RELEASE FEATURES INDEPENDENTLY.

SITUATIONS FAVORING COMBINED INCREMENTS

- WHEN THE PRODUCT IS A TIGHTLY INTEGRATED SYSTEM THAT REQUIRES ALL PARTS TO FUNCTION TOGETHER.
- WHEN STAKEHOLDERS PREFER A SINGLE, COMPREHENSIVE RELEASE.
- WHEN REGULATORY OR COMPLIANCE STANDARDS MANDATE INTEGRATED TESTING AND CERTIFICATION.

SITUATIONS FAVORING SEPARATE INCREMENTS

- WHEN FEATURES CAN BE DELIVERED INDEPENDENTLY AND PROVIDE VALUE ON THEIR OWN.
- WHEN THE ORGANIZATION ADOPTS A RELEASE TRAIN OR INCREMENTAL DEPLOYMENT STRATEGY.
- WHEN RAPID FEEDBACK ON INDIVIDUAL FEATURES IS CRITICAL FOR THE OVERALL SUCCESS.

STRATEGIES FOR MANAGING MULTIPLE SCRUM TEAMS AND THEIR INCREMENTS

TO EFFECTIVELY COORDINATE MULTIPLE SCRUM TEAMS WORKING ON THE SAME PRODUCT, ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD ADOPT STRATEGIC FRAMEWORKS AND PRACTICES.

1. IMPLEMENT A SCALED SCRUM FRAMEWORK

FRAMEWORKS SUCH AS SAFe (SCALED AGILE FRAMEWORK), LeSS (LARGE SCALE SCRUM), OR NEXUS PROVIDE STRUCTURES FOR COORDINATING MULTIPLE TEAMS.

2. ESTABLISH A SHARED PRODUCT VISION AND ROADMAP

CLEAR, SHARED GOALS ENSURE ALL TEAMS WORK TOWARDS A COMMON PURPOSE, REDUCING CONFLICTS AND MISALIGNMENT.

3. CREATE CROSS-TEAM ARTIFACTS

- INTEGRATION SPRINT OR SPRINT INCREMENT: REGULARLY SCHEDULED SESSIONS WHERE TEAMS INTEGRATE THEIR WORK.
- SHARED DEFINITION OF DONE: ENSURES CONSISTENCY ACROSS TEAMS.
- COMMON ARCHITECTURE GUIDELINES: TO PREVENT DIVERGENCE.

4. USE A SCRUM OF SCRUMS

A MEETING WHERE REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH TEAM COORDINATE, RESOLVE DEPENDENCIES, AND PLAN INTEGRATION EFFORTS.

5. CONTINUOUS INTEGRATION AND AUTOMATED TESTING

IMPLEMENT CI/CD PIPELINES TO AUTOMATICALLY BUILD, TEST, AND INTEGRATE CODE FROM MULTIPLE TEAMS, REDUCING RISKS.

6. INCREMENTAL DELIVERY AND RELEASE PLANNING

DECIDE WHETHER TO DELIVER INCREMENTS INDEPENDENTLY OR AS PART OF A LARGER RELEASE BASED ON PRODUCT AND MARKET NEEDS.

7. FOSTER STRONG COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION

ENCOURAGE OPEN CHANNELS FOR FEEDBACK, PROBLEM-SOLVING, AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING.

BEST PRACTICES FOR INTEGRATING MULTIPLE INCREMENTS

WHEN THE DECISION IS MADE TO COMBINE INCREMENTS INTO A SINGLE RELEASE, FOLLOWING BEST PRACTICES CAN MITIGATE RISKS:

1. REGULAR INTEGRATION POINTS

SCHEDULE FREQUENT INTEGRATION SESSIONS TO IDENTIFY AND RESOLVE CONFLICTS EARLY.

2. CLEAR INTERFACE DEFINITIONS

DEFINE AND DOCUMENT APIs AND INTERFACES BETWEEN COMPONENTS DEVELOPED BY DIFFERENT TEAMS.

3. USE OF FEATURE TOGGLES AND BRANCHING STRATEGIES

ALLOW FOR INCREMENTAL INTEGRATION AND TESTING WITHOUT DISRUPTING THE MAIN CODEBASE.

4. COMPREHENSIVE TESTING

IMPLEMENT END-TO-END, REGRESSION, AND PERFORMANCE TESTING TO ENSURE QUALITY.

5. CONTINUOUS FEEDBACK LOOPS

GATHER FEEDBACK EARLY AND OFTEN TO ADAPT PLANS ACCORDINGLY.

CONCLUSION: TO COMBINE OR NOT TO COMBINE?

ULTIMATELY, WHETHER ALL SCRUM TEAMS' INCREMENTS SHOULD BE COMBINED INTO A SINGLE PRODUCT RELEASE DEPENDS ON THE SPECIFIC CONTEXT, PRODUCT ARCHITECTURE, STAKEHOLDER REQUIREMENTS, AND ORGANIZATIONAL AGILITY. WHILE COMBINING INCREMENTS CAN LEAD TO A COHESIVE, INTEGRATED PRODUCT, IT MAY ALSO INTRODUCE DELAYS AND COMPLEXITY. CONVERSELY, RELEASING INCREMENTS SEPARATELY CAN ACCELERATE VALUE DELIVERY BUT MAY LEAD TO INTEGRATION CHALLENGES DOWN THE LINE.

ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD CAREFULLY EVALUATE THEIR PRODUCT'S NATURE AND STRATEGIC GOALS AND ADOPT SUITABLE FRAMEWORKS AND PRACTICES TO MANAGE MULTIPLE SCRUM TEAMS EFFECTIVELY. EMPHASIZING STRONG COORDINATION, COMMUNICATION, AND AUTOMATION CAN HELP ENSURE THAT MULTIPLE INCREMENTS, WHETHER COMBINED OR SEPARATE, DELIVER MAXIMUM VALUE TO CUSTOMERS AND STAKEHOLDERS.

FINAL THOUGHTS

MANAGING MULTIPLE SCRUM TEAMS WORKING ON THE SAME PRODUCT IS A COMPLEX BUT MANAGEABLE CHALLENGE. THE KEY LIES IN ALIGNING TEAMS AROUND A SHARED VISION, LEVERAGING SCALABLE FRAMEWORKS, AND EMPLOYING BEST PRACTICES FOR INTEGRATION AND DELIVERY. WHETHER ALL INCREMENTS SHOULD BE COMBINED INTO A SINGLE RELEASE DEPENDS ON THE PRODUCT'S CHARACTERISTICS AND STAKEHOLDER EXPECTATIONS. BY ADOPTING A STRATEGIC APPROACH, ORGANIZATIONS CAN ENSURE THAT THEIR AGILE EFFORTS LEAD TO SUCCESSFUL, HIGH-QUALITY PRODUCTS THAT MEET MARKET DEMANDS EFFICIENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

SHOULD ALL SCRUM TEAMS WORKING ON THE SAME PRODUCT DELIVER INTEGRATED INCREMENTS AT THE END OF EACH SPRINT?

YES, WHEN MULTIPLE SCRUM TEAMS WORK ON THE SAME PRODUCT, THEY SHOULD COORDINATE TO PRODUCE A POTENTIALLY SHIPPABLE INTEGRATED INCREMENT EACH SPRINT, ENSURING ALIGNMENT AND VALUE DELIVERY.

How do multiple Scrum teams coordinate to ensure their increments are integrated properly?

Teams often use techniques like Scrum of Scrums, shared integration environments, and synchronization of sprint planning to coordinate and integrate their work effectively.

Is it necessary for all Scrum teams to produce a single, unified increment each sprint?

While not always physically combined, all teams should contribute to a unified, integrated increment that reflects the total work completed, ensuring it meets the Definition of Done and is potentially shippable.

What challenges might arise when multiple Scrum teams work on the same product's increments?

Challenges include synchronization issues, inconsistent implementation, dependencies, communication gaps, and integration difficulties, which require careful coordination and planning.

Should each Scrum team produce their own separate increment or a shared one?

Each team produces its own increment, but these are integrated into a shared, cohesive product increment during the sprint review and integration processes.

How does the Scrum Guide recommend handling multiple teams working on the same product?

The Scrum Guide suggests using a common product backlog, regular collaboration, and coordination mechanisms like Scrum of Scrums to ensure all teams align and deliver a unified product increment.

Can multiple Scrum teams work on different parts of the same product without producing integrated increments?

While possible, it's best practice for all teams to deliver integrated increments regularly to ensure the product remains cohesive and potentially shippable, avoiding integration surprises later.

What role does the Product Owner play when multiple Scrum teams are involved in the same product?

The Product Owner ensures clear prioritization, manages the product backlog across teams, and facilitates communication so all teams work towards a shared product goal and produce cohesive increments.

Additional Resources

COORDINATION: NAVIGATING MULTIPLE SCRUM TEAMS WORKING ON A SINGLE PRODUCT

In the dynamic landscape of software development, scaling agile practices has become a common necessity for organizations aiming to deliver complex products efficiently. Among these practices, Scrum — renowned for its simplicity and flexibility — is frequently scaled through frameworks like SAFe, LeSS, or Scrum of Scrums. A central question arises when multiple Scrum teams work collaboratively on a single product: Should all their increments be integrated into a single, unified product increment at the end of each sprint? Addressing this

QUESTION REQUIRES AN UNDERSTANDING OF SCRUM PRINCIPLES, THE CHALLENGES OF SCALING, AND BEST PRACTICES FOR MAINTAINING PRODUCT INTEGRITY AND COHERENCE.

THIS ARTICLE EXPLORES THE INTRICACIES OF MULTIPLE SCRUM TEAMS WORKING ON THE SAME PRODUCT, EXAMINING WHETHER THEIR INCREMENTS SHOULD BE COMBINED, THE IMPLICATIONS OF DIFFERENT APPROACHES, AND PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR EFFECTIVE COORDINATION.

UNDERSTANDING SCRUM AND ITS CORE PRINCIPLES

BEFORE DELVING INTO MULTI-TEAM COORDINATION, IT'S ESSENTIAL TO REVISIT THE FOUNDATIONAL ASPECTS OF SCRUM.

THE SCRUM FRAMEWORK IN BRIEF

SCRUM IS AN AGILE PROCESS FRAMEWORK DESIGNED TO DELIVER VALUE INCREMENTALLY THROUGH ITERATIVE DEVELOPMENT CYCLES CALLED SPRINTS, TYPICALLY LASTING 2-4 WEEKS. THE CORE ROLES INCLUDE PRODUCT OWNER, SCRUM MASTER, AND DEVELOPMENT TEAM, WORKING COLLABORATIVELY TO DELIVER POTENTIALLY SHIPPABLE PRODUCT INCREMENTS AT THE END OF EACH SPRINT.

KEY PRINCIPLES OF SCRUM INCLUDE:

- EMPIRICAL PROCESS CONTROL: TRANSPARENCY, INSPECTION, ADAPTATION
- DELIVERING VALUE EARLY AND OFTEN
- EMPHASIZING CROSS-FUNCTIONAL, SELF-ORGANIZING TEAMS
- MAINTAINING A SINGLE PRODUCT BACKLOG PRIORITIZED BY VALUE

SINGLE VS. MULTIPLE TEAMS: THE SCALING CONTEXT

WHILE SCRUM IS DESIGNED FOR SMALL, CROSS-FUNCTIONAL TEAMS, SCALING IT INVOLVES MULTIPLE TEAMS WORKING SIMULTANEOUSLY ON THE SAME PRODUCT. THIS IS OFTEN NECESSARY FOR LARGE, COMPLEX PRODUCTS REQUIRING DIVERSE EXPERTISE OR PARALLEL DEVELOPMENT STREAMS.

THE KEY CHALLENGE BECOMES: HOW DO THESE TEAMS COORDINATE THEIR WORK TO MAINTAIN ALIGNMENT AND INTEGRITY? ONE CRITICAL ASPECT IS WHETHER THEIR INDIVIDUAL INCREMENTS SHOULD BE INTEGRATED INTO A SINGLE, COHESIVE PRODUCT INCREMENT AT THE END OF EACH SPRINT.

SHOULD ALL SCRUM TEAMS' INCREMENTS BE COMBINED?

THE CORE OF THE DEBATE CENTERS ON THE PURPOSE OF INCREMENTS AND THE NATURE OF COLLABORATIVE PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT.

THE DEFINITION OF A PRODUCT INCREMENT

IN SCRUM, A PRODUCT INCREMENT IS THE SUM OF ALL PRODUCT BACKLOG ITEMS COMPLETED DURING A SPRINT, PLUS THE VALUE OF THE INCREMENTS OF ALL PREVIOUS SPRINTS. IT MUST BE POTENTIALLY SHIPPABLE, MEANING IT ADHERES TO THE DEFINITION OF DONE AND IS READY FOR RELEASE.

IMPLICATION: EACH TEAM'S WORK CONTRIBUTES TO THIS INCREMENTAL VALUE, AND THE COMBINED INCREMENTS SHOULD PRODUCE A COHESIVE, INTEGRATED PRODUCT.

ADVANTAGES OF COMBINING INCREMENTS

1. ENSURES COHESION AND INTEGRATION: COMBINING INCREMENTS FACILITATES EARLY DETECTION OF INTEGRATION ISSUES, INTERFACE MISMATCHES, OR INCONSISTENCIES.
2. MAINTAINS A SINGLE SOURCE OF TRUTH: A UNIFIED PRODUCT INCREMENT SIMPLIFIES STAKEHOLDER REVIEW, USER ACCEPTANCE, AND OVERALL PRODUCT UNDERSTANDING.
3. SUPPORTS CONTINUOUS DELIVERY: WHEN ALL TEAMS' WORK IS INTEGRATED REGULARLY, IT ENABLES MORE RELIABLE, END-TO-END TESTING AND DEPLOYMENT.
4. FACILITATES TRANSPARENCY: A SINGLE, INTEGRATED INCREMENT PROVIDES A CLEAR PICTURE OF THE PRODUCT'S CURRENT STATE.

CHALLENGES AND CONSIDERATIONS

WHILE INTEGRATING ALL INCREMENTS OFFERS BENEFITS, IT ALSO PRESENTS CHALLENGES:

- COORDINATION COMPLEXITY: MULTIPLE TEAMS MUST SYNCHRONIZE THEIR WORK, MANAGE DEPENDENCIES, AND RESOLVE CONFLICTS.
- INCREASED INTEGRATION OVERHEAD: FREQUENT INTEGRATION REQUIRES DISCIPLINED PLANNING, TESTING, AND COMMUNICATION.
- POTENTIAL DELAYS: IF ONE TEAM'S WORK IS DELAYED, IT CAN HINDER THE OVERALL INTEGRATION PROCESS.
- SCALING FRAMEWORKS AND PRACTICES: PROPER SCALING METHODS (E.G., SCRUM OF SCRUMS, NEXUS, SAFe) ARE NEEDED TO MANAGE COMPLEXITY.

WHEN MIGHT IT BE APPROPRIATE NOT TO COMBINE ALL INCREMENTS?

IN SOME SCENARIOS, IT MIGHT BE PRAGMATIC OR EVEN NECESSARY TO TREAT TEAM INCREMENTS SEPARATELY, ESPECIALLY DURING EARLY DEVELOPMENT PHASES OR WHEN WORKING ON DISTINCT COMPONENTS.

COMPONENT TEAMS VS. FEATURE TEAMS

- COMPONENT TEAMS: FOCUS ON SPECIFIC PARTS OF THE SYSTEM (E.G., DATABASE, API, UI). THEIR INCREMENTS MIGHT BE DELIVERABLE INDEPENDENTLY BUT NEED TO BE INTEGRATED INTO A COHESIVE WHOLE LATER.
- FEATURE TEAMS: WORK CROSS-FUNCTIONALLY ON END-TO-END FEATURES, AIMING TO PRODUCE INTEGRATED, SHIPPABLE FEATURES EACH SPRINT.

IN THIS CONTEXT:

- FEATURE TEAMS TEND TO PRODUCE INTEGRATED INCREMENTS REGULARLY.
- COMPONENT TEAMS MAY PRODUCE PARTIAL OR ISOLATED INCREMENTS THAT REQUIRE INTEGRATION LATER.

INCREMENTAL VS. INTEGRATED DELIVERY

- INCREMENTAL DELIVERY: EACH TEAM PRODUCES A USABLE PIECE OF FUNCTIONALITY, WHICH MAY BE INTEGRATED WITH OTHERS LATER.
- INTEGRATED DELIVERY: ALL TEAMS COORDINATE TO PRODUCE A SINGLE, INTEGRATED PRODUCT INCREMENT EACH SPRINT.

ORGANIZATIONS MUST DECIDE BASED ON THEIR PRODUCT ARCHITECTURE, RELEASE STRATEGY, AND TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY.

BEST PRACTICES FOR MULTI-TEAM INCREMENT MANAGEMENT

TO EFFECTIVELY MANAGE MULTIPLE SCRUM TEAMS WORKING ON THE SAME PRODUCT, ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD ADOPT BEST PRACTICES THAT PROMOTE ALIGNMENT, QUALITY, AND EFFICIENCY.

1. ESTABLISH A CLEAR DEFINITION OF DONE

- ENSURE ALL TEAMS SHARE A CONSISTENT UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT CONSTITUTES A COMPLETE, POTENTIALLY SHIPPABLE INCREMENT.
- THE DEFINITION OF DONE SHOULD INCLUDE INTEGRATION CRITERIA, TESTING, DOCUMENTATION, AND COMPLIANCE STANDARDS.

2. IMPLEMENT AGILE SCALING FRAMEWORKS

- USE FRAMEWORKS LIKE NEXUS, LESS, OR SAFe DESIGNED TO COORDINATE MULTIPLE SCRUM TEAMS.
- THESE FRAMEWORKS PROVIDE STRUCTURES FOR SYNCHRONIZATION, INTEGRATION, AND GOVERNANCE.

3. REGULAR CROSS-TEAM SYNCHRONIZATION

- CONDUCT SCRUM OF SCRUMS MEETINGS OR EQUIVALENT TO COORDINATE WORK, IDENTIFY DEPENDENCIES, AND RESOLVE IMPEDIMENTS.
- USE SHARED ARTIFACTS LIKE INTEGRATED PRODUCT BACKLOGS, PROGRAM BOARDS, OR INTEGRATION PLANS.

4. CONTINUOUS INTEGRATION AND AUTOMATED TESTING

- EMPHASIZE CONTINUOUS INTEGRATION (CI) PRACTICES TO AUTOMATE THE INTEGRATION PROCESS.
- AUTOMATE TESTING TO QUICKLY IDENTIFY INTEGRATION ISSUES AND ENSURE QUALITY.

5. INCREMENTAL INTEGRATION

- AIM FOR FREQUENT, INCREMENTAL INTEGRATION RATHER THAN WAITING UNTIL THE END OF A RELEASE CYCLE.
- THIS REDUCES INTEGRATION RISK AND IMPROVES FEEDBACK LOOPS.

6. CLEAR DEPENDENCY MANAGEMENT

- MAP OUT DEPENDENCIES AMONG TEAMS EARLY.
- USE DEPENDENCY MATRICES OR VISUAL TOOLS TO MONITOR AND ADDRESS INTER-TEAM DEPENDENCIES PROACTIVELY.

7. SHARED PRODUCT VISION AND ROADMAP

- MAINTAIN A UNIFIED PRODUCT VISION THAT GUIDES ALL TEAMS.
- USE COMMON ROADMAPS AND RELEASE PLANS TO ALIGN EFFORTS.

CONCLUSION: TO COMBINE OR NOT TO COMBINE? — A STRATEGIC DECISION

ULTIMATELY, WHETHER ALL SCRUM TEAMS' INCREMENTS SHOULD BE COMBINED INTO A SINGLE, COHESIVE PRODUCT INCREMENT DEPENDS ON VARIOUS FACTORS:

- PRODUCT ARCHITECTURE: MODULAR SYSTEMS FAVOR INCREMENTAL, COMPONENT-BASED RELEASES, WHILE TIGHTLY INTEGRATED PRODUCTS BENEFIT FROM SYNCHRONIZED INCREMENTS.
- BUSINESS NEEDS: CONTINUOUS DELIVERY OF A FULLY INTEGRATED PRODUCT MAY BE PARAMOUNT FOR USER EXPERIENCE, COMPLIANCE, OR COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE.
- TEAM MATURITY AND PRACTICES: WELL-ESTABLISHED TEAMS WITH MATURE CI/CD PIPELINES ARE BETTER EQUIPPED TO PRODUCE INTEGRATED INCREMENTS REGULARLY.
- SCALING FRAMEWORK ADOPTED: FRAMEWORKS LIKE NEXUS OR LESS EXPLICITLY PROMOTE INTEGRATED INCREMENTS, WHILE OTHERS MAY ALLOW FOR STAGED OR COMPONENT-BASED DELIVERIES.

IN SUMMARY:

- FOR MOST COMPLEX, CUSTOMER-FACING PRODUCTS, INTEGRATING ALL TEAM INCREMENTS INTO A SINGLE, POTENTIALLY SHIPPABLE PRODUCT AT THE END OF EACH SPRINT IS IDEAL TO ENSURE COHESION, QUALITY, AND AGILITY.
- HOWEVER, PRACTICAL CONSTRAINTS AND ARCHITECTURAL CONSIDERATIONS MAY NECESSITATE MORE FLEXIBLE APPROACHES, SUCH AS STAGED INTEGRATIONS OR COMPONENT-BASED RELEASES.

BY THOUGHTFULLY BALANCING INTEGRATION FREQUENCY, TECHNICAL PRACTICES, AND ORGANIZATIONAL COORDINATION, ORGANIZATIONS CAN HARNESS THE FULL BENEFITS OF MULTIPLE SCRUM TEAMS WORKING SYNERGISTICALLY ON A UNIFIED PRODUCT.

FINAL THOUGHTS: EFFECTIVE SCALING OF SCRUM REQUIRES DISCIPLINED PLANNING, TRANSPARENT COMMUNICATION, AND A SHARED COMMITMENT TO QUALITY. WHETHER ALL INCREMENTS ARE COMBINED OR MANAGED SEPARATELY, THE GOAL REMAINS THE SAME: DELIVERING MAXIMUM VALUE TO USERS WHILE MAINTAINING A SUSTAINABLE, COLLABORATIVE DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENT.

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