**My Day as a Product Owner**

I arrive in the office, grab a cup of coffee, check my email for any fires, and take a quick look at the burndown chart and the sprint backlog to get a feel for what’s going on.

Depending on when the daily standup is scheduled, I may meet with stakeholders, work on user stories for the next sprint, or work on other items that help me understand my role and what I need to do more completely.

When my calendar reminds me of the standup, I head down to the meeting room.

As the standup occurs, I listen to each team member so I can get a feel of how the sprint is progressing. Sometimes I hear things that indicate wandering, so I jot a note to myself and bring this up during my time requesting a sidebar if necessary.

At the end of the standup I may attend sidebars if necessary or I’m interested in the discussion. Otherwise I may talk to the Scrum Master afterwards to arrange backlog grooming or pre-planning meetings.

I always make a pass to look at the newly-posted sprint burndown chart soon after the standup. If I’m concerned about progress, I’ll discuss this with the Scrum Master.

The rest of my day is spent interfacing with stakeholders, ensuring that my backlog is prioritized correctly, working with subject-matter-experts to flesh out my user stories and acceptance criteria, and communicating status to management.

My goal is to always be ready for backlog grooming and sprint planning before the next sprint. I am ready for sprint planning meeting, so my team doesn’t lose time waiting for me. So far, I’m able to keep ahead of them… with help from the team during pre-planning and grooming sessions!

I try to be available to the team to help resolve any ambiguities for sprint backlog items, and I always respond to my email promptly. If I don’t know the answer, I’ll go to the people who do. I also check work as it gets finished during the sprint so there are no surprises in the sprint review meeting with our stakeholders.

As needed, after the end of a sprint, I’ll evaluate progress on the release using the release burndown chart, and make the appropriate changes to my “actual” release schedule that I share with my stakeholders.

At the end of the day, I’ll check my email one last time… but it’s pretty nice to know that things are on track and to be able to go home without being stressed.

**Happy Scrumming!**