Informed Consent to Participate in a Research study

Title of the research project: Product Owner's functions in SAFe
Researcher: Daniel Remta
Phone contact:

Purpose and background

Daniel Remta is conducting research on the Product Owner's activities and challenges in the Scaled Agile Framework during his 1st year of the Ph.D. studies. The purpose of your participation in this research is to help the researcher understand the activities and challenges that Product Owners face in environments where SAFe has been implemented. You were selected as a possible participant in this study because of your experience with the Product Owner role in SAFe.

Procedures
If you agree to participate in this research study, approximately 60-80 minute semi-structured interviews will be done with you covering areas: Requirements, Prioritization, Customers, Organization, and Development. The whole interview will be recorded and later transcribed. It is planned to publish interview extracts and overall research outcomes, but names will remain anonymous.

Risks
In case you start feeling uncomfortable or inconvenienced, the interview will be stopped immediately based on your request. You have the right to decline answers on any question or ask for a pause or stop recording at any time.

Benefits of participation
There will be no direct benefit to you from participating in this research study. The anticipated benefit of your participation in this study is in the identification of points for improvements in enterprises using SAFe.

Confidentiality
The records from this study will be kept as confidential as possible. No individual identities will be used in any reports or publications resulting from the study. All recordings and transcripts will be given codes and stored separately from any names or other direct identification of participants. Research information will be kept in locked files at all times. Only research personnel will have access to the files, recordings, and transcripts, and only those with an essential need to see names or other identifying information will have access to that particular file. All collected data will be destroyed after Daniel Remta will finish his Ph.D. studies, or any time he will decide to discontinue his studies.

Voluntary participation
Your decision whether or not to participate in this study is voluntary. If you choose to participate in this study, you can withdraw your consent and discontinue participation at any time without prejudice.

Questions
If you have any questions about the study, please contact Daniel Remta by calling +xxxxxxxxxxx.

CONSENT
YOU ARE MAKING A DECISION WHETHER OR NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN A RESEARCH STUDY. YOUR SIGNATURE BELOW INDICATES THAT YOU HAVE DECIDED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STUDY AFTER READING ALL OF THE INFORMATION ABOVE AND YOU UNDERSTAND THE INFORMATION IN THIS FORM, HAVE HAD ANY QUESTIONS ANSWERED AND HAVE RECEIVED A COPY OF THIS FORM FOR YOU TO KEEP.

Signature _____ Date _____
                  Research Participant

Signature _____ Date _____
                  Interviewer

Demographic / warm-up

1. What is your position?
2. What are your main duties?
3. How long have you been in the position?
4. How long have you been with the company?
5. What was your previous position?
6. How many teams do you work with?
7. Please share your opinion on agile methodologies and their implementation in Broadcom. (Does it work? Are they followed? Do you see it adding value?)

Entrepreneur

1. Please describe your involvement in business/product and services planning. Which activities of yours do you see there?
2. Do you consider the development of these plans a regular part of your job? (Why?)
3. Can you give an example of your last contribution to the business/product plan?

Groom

1. Please describe the journey of a requirement before it gets into the sprint backlog and your involvement in it.
2. Do you make sure your backlog is continuously evolving? How? How often?
3. Where do you usually get the requirements from?
4. How are those requirements and acceptance criteria clarified?

Prioritizer

1. Please describe how you prioritize requirements? (Which tools/frameworks do you use?)
2. Please describe the factors you take into account when managing priorities?
3. How often do you have to set/adjust/change priorities?
4. Can you give an example of a difficult priority decision you had to make in the last two months?

Gatekeeper

1. Please describe at what point a story/feature is considered complete? (Who decides it?)
2. How are decisions made about a story/feature being included in a release?
3. How often are these decisions made?
4. Can you give an example of your last tough decision about adding features to a release?

Release master

1. Who is responsible for managing and approving release schedules?
2. How often are release schedules created and approved?
3. Can you describe your activities in relation to releases?

Technical Architect

1. How would you describe your involvement in technical architecture?
2. Who are the people responsible for and coordinating the architecture on large projects?
3. Can you give an example of your last architecture-related activities?

Risk Assessor

1. Please describe your activities in the area of risk management.
2. How often do you need to manage and mitigate risks?
3. What are the typical risks considered?
4. Can you give an example of how you managed/mitigated some risk last time?

Governor

1. Who provides a governance framework to the teams at the program level?
2. Do you feel responsible for ensuring compliance with corporate guidelines and policies?
3. Can you give examples of activities related to this area which you performed during the last two months?

Traveler

1. Where do you usually travel during your business trips?
2. How many times have you travelled to the customer site in the last 6 months?
3. What was the motivation for a visit? What were the outcomes?

Communicator

1. Please describe your activities in the cooperation of geographically distributed teams.
2. How often are you positioned between geographically distributed teams?
3. Can you describe your latest experience in this area?

Intermediary

1. Please describe your experience in your business domain. Do you consider it as sufficient?
2. Is it a usual practice for you to communicate with senior executives? Who are the stakeholders you communicate with the most?
3. Can you give examples of discussions you had with senior executives in the last two months?

Motivator

1. Do you feel contributing to making the development team motivated and involved in product development? Why?
2. Is motivating others a regular part of your job?
3. Can you give an example of anything you do to motivate your teams?
4. Please describe how you get and keep the teams involved?

Leader

1. Can you describe your activities with the intention of influencing the teams?
2. Would you characterize yourself as a formal or informal authority? Why?
3. How often do you use authority to carry out your intentions?
4. Can you give an example of how you significantly influenced the team last time?

Negotiator

1. Can you describe your activities to decrease tensions between different stakeholders if there are any?
2. How often are you positioned between stakeholders to mitigate the situation?
3. Can you give examples of difficult negotiations you went through in the last two months?

Customer Relationship Manager

1. Please describe your involvement in technical support and product training.
2. Do you consider these activities a regular part of your job? (Why?)
3. Can you give an example of your last involvement in technical support and product training activities?

Is there anything else you would like to add or share?