

Webinar Judy Alter - 8th of October 2020

Q&A Transcript

Question 1	What about the idea that the "how" is for the technology/delivery team? We did not have separate delivery teams. I was on a team with the scrum master, solution architect, developers & BA's. We created the user stories & tasks, testing & worked on the install to put into production.
Question 2	What is the role of BA and PO in defining the user stories and how does requirements elicitation relates to a user story? On my team mainly the BA's created the user stories, tasks, acceptance criteria, and definition of done. Our PO would review them after creation but he didn't overrule us very often.
Question 3	to use as a survey 85% of what a BA does is the soft skills and needs to be a great communicator and connector. Early in their career they need to learn these skills.
Question 4	It is much more difficult to gain trust and manage remotely, impact of COVID If everyone has their cameras on, you can look at non verbal communication as they roll their eyes, cross their arms or look disengaged.
Question 5	Now a days Many companies moving to Agile with out dedicated BAs and claiming successful Projects with just Product Owners.. What is your view on this please? I didn't work with any Product Owners that had BA experience. You need someone on the team that performs business analysis but the title isn't as important as the skill. I personally prefer the BA title but companies do things differently.
Question 6	i'm moving away from all those titles. The customer just wants somebody that helps him in building a product. It can be a PO or a BA or someone else but i think the customer doesn't care. He/she just wants a product I believe you have to have some title but I would agree with you as long as someone who is on the team has business analysis skills.
Question 7	This can lead to solving the wrong problem, as no one is doing a root cause analysis, BAs ask the right hard questions and do not jump to solution too soon I didn't see a question but I agree with what you are staying.
Question 8	QA analyst sometimes work closely with BA on agile teams. Companies define the role of what agile BA do more likely QA Analysts didn't exist in my organization as we did our own testing.
Question 9	These are statements on what BA characteristics and skillsets should exist, without detail on methods to achieve these... there are processes, as in a Stakeholder List, RACI chart = communication plan, scope analysis... I would agree with your statement.
Question 10	How do we measure success of a BA being outside the team? On occasion we had to work with BA's on another team if our project crossed into some other area of our train. We all had the same general job descriptions but there were different goals based on the teams. They created their own stories and tasks on their team board and we just created a plac holder on our board.
Question 11	Yep - I think the idea is that as a BA you may wear a different hat where your responsibilities are not pure "BA" tasks - testing, BSA, UX, etc I had the title of Business Systems Analyst for most of my career and the only thing that I did which was not a pure BA task was testing.
Question 12	I make that distinction because for a CBAP or other certifications tasks that you did when you were a BA will not be counted if they are defined as "BA" tasks Testing does not count toward certification but everything else I did was counted. I had been a BA for ten years when I got my CBAP.
Question 13	Amol Pathak - What is the difference in requirement elicitation for Waterfalls model and Agile methodologies? Elicitation is a skill that does not change but what does change is the time period you have to do it. Because Agile is incremental, you do your elicitation in smaller pieces and if you create a document, you don't do it early in the project. You do "just enough, just in time." You didn't always create a document, the user story created with enough detail could serve as requirements.
Question 14	in my experience, User Stories = Requirements. Simple or fully dressed Use Case. Role Definition and steps for the Role. Acceptance criteria is the requirements I would agree with your statement.
Question 15	If there is no traceability for requirements, how we can confirm that all the tasks are leading towards Business expectations? Our organization didn't perform traceability and that was where rework sometimes came into play. We discussed it a lot but overall our projects had a high success rate.
Question 16	survey is a mthod to obtain feedback - I didn't say use a survey - Agree but I wasn't a big fan of surveys.
Question 17	Being a 'connector' is a skill which isn't easy to learn, do you agree ? I totally agree and that is why new BA's need soft skills training and to learn how to relate to people. That is why I talk about being able to get the stakeholders to trust and have confidence in you.
Question 18	Agile is always done based on an organization's needs and maturity level within the IT structure I totally agree with your statement.
Question 19	Thank you Judy very insightful You are very welcome and I appreciate
Question 20	I have seen pure Agile teams for teams who develop software products who collects requirements from Customer demands I am unsure what you are saying but if you are referring to the customer as an external customer, our company started on a journey to move from being product focused to being customer focused about five years before I retired. They are still on that journey. Many changes that were enacted were due to customer requests.
Question 21	Sorry, that invalidates the 7500hours required in the CBAP application of pure BA work to apply I am not sure about your comment but I knew a few people who obtained their CBAP Certification without ever being a BA. They were in IT and elicited requirements, created solutions and performed other functions that met the qualifications for their application.
Question 22	One can start from ECBA certification For a new BA this is a great place to start.
Question 23	When you work for an organization that is highly regulated it's a challenge to eliminate a significant amount of documentation. I believe there is a way to make Agile work in these cases - this is where a BA can really be an asset - but I also don't think waterfall is all bad - when done well it works well. It is not as important with a project as to the methodology used but more that the team has someone who know how to perform business analysis. There are some projects where waterfall may be better. We were able to use Agile for compliance related projects. By innovate we could improve our internal processes to be more efficient and still meet the compliance/regulatory requirements.
Question 24	Can the BA be the developer at the same time? As in Low-Code programming such as Mendix? If a BA had the skill that would work and probably be an advantage. I coded the tables when we created new products on our newer life system. I had to figure out solutions and understand the code.
Question 25	To which degree are the 3 reasons why we need BA's on Agile Teams, also true for functional analysts? That title didn't exist in our organization but I feel they would also apply to functional analysts.