

# Professional Scrum Developer Program

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*February 9, 2010*

I am excited to tell you about the Professional Scrum Developer (PSD) program. The PSD program is an innovative program for developers from the founders of Scrum that is offered exclusively through [Scrum.org](http://Scrum.org). The PSD program gives software developers the tools necessary to succeed on an Agile **team** using Scrum.

I started as a developer, developed Scrum to help my software company succeed, and have popularized Scrum over the last ten years. Scrum is a framework for managing product and systems development, and I have focused my attention on helping Product Owners and ScrumMasters work in an Agile way to support development teams. However, I've come to realize that the developers that work in a Scrum environment also need help. I'm coming back to address their needs with the PSD program.

This is important because in the 20+ years I have spent working with Agile software development organizations, technical training has always focused on the individual and individual skills; elevating specific practices over the reasons these practices are important: to **create business value**.

We have designed the Scrum.org PSD program to address this problem head-on. We are offering developers hands-on experience with powerful engineering tools, exposure to the benefits of Scrum as a framework, an understanding of the warning signs of team dysfunction, and practice addressing the typical challenges that arise. The PSD program:

- Has been built from the ground up specifically for developers
- Focuses on both teamwork and on technical practice, because software development in the 21st century relies on people skills as much as on tech chops
- Addresses head on the people and technical issues that I know other Scrum courses shy away from
- Simulates a real working environment – no “chalk and talk”
- Utilizes an innovative continual assessment model to support student development beyond the course

PSD program participants learn how to use modern engineering practices to develop an increment of complete, potentially shippable functionality. They will do so within the Scrum framework, working on self-organizing, cross-functional teams to do iterative, incremental development.

Courses like this have been attempted before. In fact, while I was Chairman of the Scrum Alliance we tried to address this need by "packaging" CSM courses with technology courses. This approach failed for three primary reasons:

- 1) The courses weren't *built* for developers: there was too much time spent on Scrum theory and learning wasn't integrated across classes,
- 2) The technical courses focused on individuals rather than the entire development team, and
- 3) Technology vendors are experts on technology, but not necessarily experts on Scrum.

The PSD program is different. We're not making the application of practices a homework exercise left to graduates. We're practicing Scrum in the course, we're developing hands-on, we're using the tools you'll use, and we're tackling the problems in the course that you'll find when you go back home.

We've learned from the hodgepodge of courses on isolated practices or technologies that you need an integrated whole, not a bin of parts. This is much more than the Scrum we've been teaching ScrumMasters and the stand-ups you do every day. This is about the other 7 ¾ hours of your daily work as a developer. We take seriously your desire to deliver better increments of shippable software. We take seriously your desire for career satisfaction and growth. We ask you to take a serious look at this course.

This is a certification program. Students are offered a rigorous assessment test conducted by an international certification agency that will – if the student receives a passing score – certify the student and provide a certificate. This will be the first step in a number of such assessments that Scrum.org will offer.

For more information on the Professional Scrum Developer program, or to find a class in your area, please visit [Scrum.org](http://Scrum.org).

Ken Schwaber