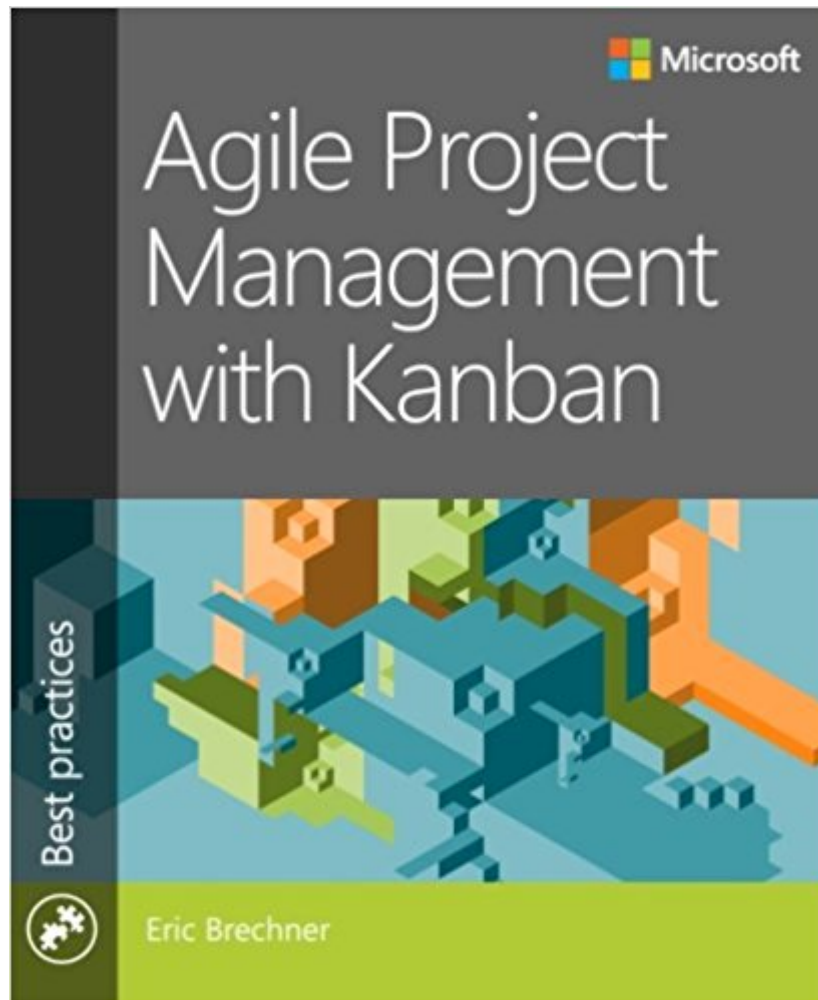




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# Agile Project Management With Kanban (Developer Best Practices)



## Synopsis

Use Kanban to maximize efficiency, predictability, quality, and value With Kanban, every minute you spend on a software project can add value for customers. One book can help you achieve this goal: *Agile Project Management with Kanban*. Author Eric Brechner pioneered Kanban within the Xbox engineering team at Microsoft. Now he shows you exactly how to make it work for your team. Think of this book as “Kanban in a box”: open it, read the quickstart guide, and you’re up and running fast. As you gain experience, Brechner reveals powerful techniques for right-sizing teams, estimating, meeting deadlines, deploying components and services, adapting or evolving from Scrum or traditional Waterfall, and more. For every step of your journey, you’ll find pragmatic advice, useful checklists, and actionable lessons. This truly is “Kanban in a box”: all you need to deliver breakthrough value and quality. Use Kanban techniques to:

- Start delivering continuous value with your current team
- Plan and staff new projects more effectively
- Minimize work in progress and quickly adjust to change
- Eliminate artificial meetings and prolonged stabilization
- Improve and enhance customer engagement
- Visualize workflow and fix revealed bottlenecks
- Drive quality upstream
- Integrate Kanban into large projects
- Optimize sustained engineering (contributed by James Waletzky)
- Expand Kanban beyond software development

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Eric Brechner is the development manager for Microsoft's Xbox Engineering Services team. At Microsoft, he has also been development manager for Xbox.com, engineering learning and development, and Office Media Store. He has previously worked at Boeing, Silicon Graphics, Graftek, and Jet Propulsion Laboratory. The author of a book and blog on software best practices (as I. M. Wright), he holds eight patents and a Ph.D. in applied mathematics.

I love this book, and I love using Kanban. I use it at work, and my family uses it at home to track schoolwork, chores, and even some house projects. It made a huge difference for tracking schoolwork. I evangelize Kanban to friends and coworkers, and when I do, I point them to this book as a starting point. Simply put, Kanban works better than anything else I have tried - it strips away the unneeded stuff and focuses you on what you need to be doing with very minimal overhead. It is very flexible so you can adjust it for your needs once you master the basics, even to the point of adapting to the space you have available for your Kanban board. Full disclosure: I work on one of the teams Eric referenced in this book. The picture of our Kanban board in the book was very early on when our team was still learning to use the full power of Kanban. We've improved on that early board a bit by optimizing it for our team over the 4+ years we've been using it, but even in the "early learning stages" Kanban worked better than anything else we'd ever tried. Like anything else, the longer you do use a tool, the better you get at using it, and our team is no exception.

Agile Project Management with Kanban by Eric Brechner is very different from the last two books about Kanban I have had an opportunity to read recently (Kanban in Action and Kanban from the Inside). It is about good, old and infamous Project Management, something, what many Agile or Lean orthodox people call bad and dead. It briefly presents precise and actionable ways how to apply Kanban as a tool for organizations of different kind and size. Despite being written by a guy who worked for a huge product development organization (Xbox/Microsoft), the book manages to escape insanely popular trend of telling how to scale Kanban, just as consulting business suggests to scale Scrum or Agile. Instead it meets the reality of any software or product development teams, which do not work independently. It comes with an open letter to upper management, which needs to support evolution toward Kanban, as well as with questions and more important answers you may need to convince your peers, working with Waterfall or Scrum in the past. You won't find here too many details about theories behind Lean and Kanban, but just enough to know where to look for it and why things work better this way. The author, moreover, offers ready-to-use Excel sheets, to

calculate just a few, but super important numbers and metrics for your team, so you can track some KPIs and improve based on real data, not just your gut feeling. In the end there's a big chance your gut feelings will be consistent with data trends, and Kanban will guide you to better predictability, less waste and rework, more evenness and joy of work.

We had a supposed (certified) scrum master where I worked last but being my first experience with it, I was shocked how unproductive our processes were. After learning what scrum was supposed to be like, I realized how saying you practice scrum and doing scrum are two different things. Our bug tracking software (Fogbugz) included a Kanban board which got me interested in researching the subject which ultimately led to this wonderful book. After reading it, I have to admit I think this is going to be better than scrum. Can't wait to try it out. This book is highly recommended!

I did not think Kanban would apply to the company I am at, but I am completely convinced that Kanban is actually a big improvement over basic SCRUM. We find the folks learning Scrum keep turning SCRUM into some Agile looking waterfall by extending the sprints and slipping the delivery dates. This book shows in a very practical way how to implement and measure Kanban

The book covers the basics and attempts to provide guidance for the move to the new methodology. It is easy to read, the writing enthusiastic and interesting examples are littered throughout the book. It doesn't try to be the single source of all knowledge for Kanban, but offers up recommendations if more details are needed, which I personally find refreshing. If you are looking for a good introduction to the Kanban method, you have found the right book!

Very straightforward approach to content that will improve your efficiency in any software developer project that you are working on. Highly recommend this book to all software professionals or software students!

Kanban is the natural progression from waterfall through scrum to truly continuous flow of work. With clarity, practicality and attention to cultural resistance, he outlines the process we need in this post industrial, conversational based rather than thing based project world. Get on board!

Eric's book is quite the intro to Kanban. We watched his talk on YouTube first and then purchased his book and eventually converted our whole team over to Kanban from SCRUM. We couldn't be

happier with the results so far.

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