Winter 2020

My Internship with ScrumGenius

Alexandra Wyatt

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my internship with scrumgenius

alexandra wyatt
what did you work on yesterday?
what are you working on today?
did you encounter any blockers?
Feature Spotlight: Goals and Blockers

ScrumGenius provides a smart, efficient way of tracking your team's goals and blockers through the team dashboard. All you have to do is check enable goals and blockers tracking when creating or editing your team's report and ScrumGenius will automatically start tracking these metrics for you.
How Saad Ahmed Motivates Volunteers with ScrumGenius

Before ScrumGenius, traditional scrum meetings often got sidetracked by administrative details, taking up extra time and letting blockers and goals go undiscussed. Now, Saad’s team at MAX Gala uses ScrumGenius with Slack to maximize their productivity by reducing follow-up emails, cultivating more action-oriented stand-ups, and creating a shared agreement on accountability.
Draft 1 - David Smit


David Smit works for Interstates, a systems integration company that focuses primarily on electrical construction and manufacturing. As part of the Operational Technology Infrastructure and Security Group team, Smit found that although his morning stand-ups were fairly short, a lot of their time was wasted on tangents and explaining context when it could have been used more efficiently to focus on solving blockers. Smit and his team now use ScrumGenius, a business tool that allows small teams to better and more efficiently communicate company goals with each other, and they find that their stand-ups and overall workflow have become far more efficient.

One of Smit’s biggest problems were these stand-ups themselves. Although he states that his stand-ups were usually about fifteen minutes long, much of that time was spent describing what had been done the previous day instead of what problems they faced and what their tasks were for the current day, bringing down the company’s potential efficiency. Furthermore, as Smit is a part of several teams and could not attend every team’s daily meetings each day, he found that often, a team’s stand up would take even longer as he would need to have missing context explained to him. A similar phenomenon would happen with employees who may have been off sick or working from home or on-site locations, creating a broken communication loop.

ScrumGenius gets rid of this time previously wasted on day-to-day operational matters, allowing for Scrum teams to easily catch up through email summaries and reports before the meetings so they can focus on other topics in the meetings themselves.

As such, Smit found that ScrumGenius allowed him and his team to better plan their days. As the Scrum reports cut out the need for “catch up” in-person reports by giving teams their necessary info before the stand-ups, employees knew what they needed to discuss in during the stand-ups themselves, such as blockers and other time-sensitive matters. This cuts out a lot of the “waffling.”

Draft 2 - David Smit

How ScrumGenius Helped David Smit and Interstates Make Work More Efficient

The Customer

David Smit is part of the Operational Technology Infrastructure and Security team at Interstates, a systems integration company that focuses primarily on electrical construction and manufacturing. With almost three years of experience at the company, David knows how simple things like catching everyone up on tasks and goals can take up valuable time, especially when coworkers are in different places. This is why David and his team use ScrumGenius to deal with the prep side of meetings and make their stand-ups and overall workflow far more efficient.

The Problems

One of David’s biggest problems were the stand-ups themselves. Although these stand-ups were usually about fifteen minutes long, much of that time was spent describing what had been done the previous day and bringing everyone up to speed instead of what needed to be done to keep pace for the future. This brought down Interstates’s potential efficiency, as the team often didn’t get the chance to discuss blockers standing in the way of work or targets to keep them on track.

“We’d have a stand-up meeting every day, 15 minutes at the beginning of the day. Just kind of, ‘Hey, what’d you do yesterday? What’s going on today? Any issues?’ That would take the full 15 minutes, all the time.”

Draft 3 - David Smit

How ScrumGenius Helped David Smit and Interstates Make Work More Efficient

Summary


More efficient meetings: using ScrumGenius to automate the manual prep work in stand-ups means that employees can use their Scrum answers as a template for what they have to say in meetings, cutting out waffling.

Better time management: because this manual prep work is out of the way, employees can instead discuss the problems and blockers that affect their workflow.

More completed tickets: discussing blockers allows David Smit’s team to fix issues and complete tasks easier and quicker than before, bumping up productivity.

David Smit knows how simple things like catching his team up on tasks can take up valuable time during the workday and prevent blockers from being solved, especially when team members are spread across different places.

As head of the Operational Technology Infrastructure and Security team at Interstates for the past three years, David needed to find a way to cut wasted time from his stand-ups so his team can tackle roadblocks more productively.

Now, David and his team use ScrumGenius to deal with the prep side of meetings and make their stand-ups and overall workflow far more efficient.
How ScrumGenius Helps New Zealand’s Local Government Team Communicate Better

Published on July 21st, 2019.

As a continuous improvement coach, it’s been Daniel Houppermans’ job for the last seven years to establish the tools to foster creativity and improvement in the workplace. Yet he found communication between co-located teams often fell short.

Daniel works for a local government in New Zealand. His team has a diverse range of functions that are always changing to suit different projects and employees are co-located around eight different offices, meaning they move around frequently between locations.

The lack of a central meeting space made communication difficult. Not everyone could attend the same meetings, so the team was left with an uneven knowledge base. People who worked from different locations wouldn’t know what had happened and would have to be caught up, further wasting time.

This meant Daniel’s weekly team meetings could last anywhere from one to two hours and would often become interrupted by detailing the previous day’s tasks instead of talking about blockers.

Daniel himself often found the length of his inbox was constantly growing with email from his team asking for clarification or missed details from meetings, further taking up time that could have been used to complete tasks.

Finding a system that worked for Daniel’s team was also difficult. The team had previously used many different platforms for organizing information, but it was a Goldilocks situation—some of them fit quite right.

Daniel Houppermans
 Continuous Improvement Coach
 Waikato Regional Council

“ScrumGenius is an extremely useful tool to facilitate team stand-ups. It has helped our teams to run more efficient and effective meetings, in cases cutting them down from 2 hours to just 20 minutes. Before, the walls were plastered in many out-of-date post-it notes. Now, we have better routines and self-discipline.”
ScrumGenius Blog

We write articles about project management, remote working, agile development and our own product updates.

MICROSOFT TEAMS • 4 MIN READ
Microsoft Teams Updates (July - September)

MICROSOFT TEAMS • 9 MIN READ
Top 8 HR Apps for Increased Efficiency in Microsoft Teams

PRODUCT UPDATES • 4 MIN READ
October Product Updates
Building Trust and Communication in Remote Teams

Published on September 20th, 2019.

Building a good platform of trust and communication can be hard for any team. But it's even harder for remote teams who don’t get the traditional face-to-face interaction every day. It’s not an easy process, either, and it requires ongoing work to stay in place. Fortunately, there are many ways to help foster trust and communication in your remote teams, and we’ve listed some of them here.

Promote Transparency
keywords  research  content
### Keyword Tracking

**Average Position:** 27.25

**Up:** 15

**Down:** 40

**Add new keywords to track**

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## Breakdown of audit finding

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22 blog posts
6 case studies
7 feature pages
14 apps
65 graphics
∞ emails