Kathy Antol

Spark Joy in your Backlog

Large Companies
Startups
Consulting

Business Agility Coach
Scrum Master
Product Owner

Experience

Job Titles

Hello
I'm Kathy

Hobbies

RV Glamping

Rock Climbing

Skiing

Certifications

- Certified Agile Leadership (CAL-E/CAL-O)
- Agility in the Enterprise (ICP-ENT)
- Coaching Agile Transitions (ICP-CAT)
- Agile Team Coach (ICP-ACC)
- Scaled Agile Framework Agilist (SA)
- Certified Scrum Master (CSM)
- Professional Scrum Master (PSM I)
- Dale Carnegie Leadership Training

KonMari by Marie Kondō

“People cannot change their habits without first changing their way of thinking.” — Marie Kondō

What will we learn today?

Mess It Up - Signs that your backlog is unhealthy

Tidy It Up - Steps to keep only what Sparks Joy

Keep It Up - Ideas to maintain balance and joy

Dumping Ground

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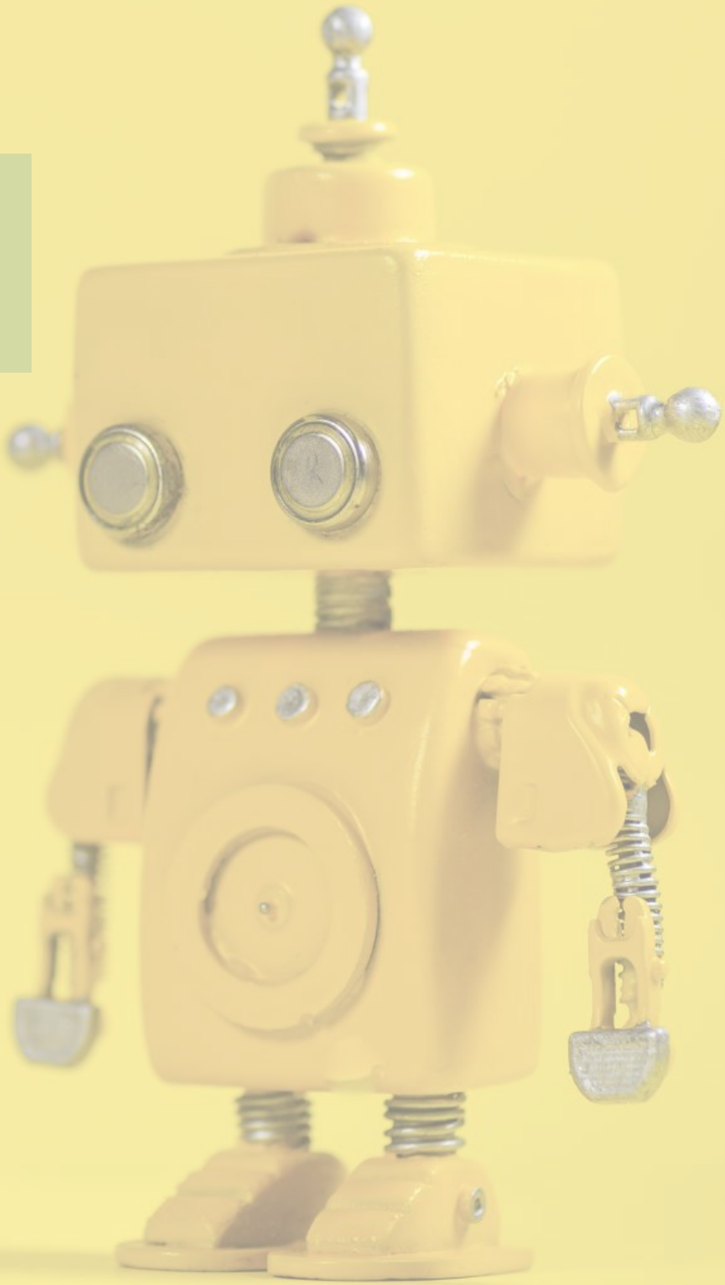
Some Day...

Photo by Josh Hild on Unsplash

Wasting Time

As an Engineer…



Backlog Shuffle

Round 1: Mess It UP

Take three turns each, round-robin style. During your turn:

1. Roll the dice to determine your budget to build features.
2. Turn over a card from the draw pile, one at a time.
3. Add the effort points from each card until that total equals your budget without going over.
4. If the next card puts you over your budget, leave it face-down on the draw pile for the next player.
5. Keep your cards. This represents what features are built.
6. **Scoring**: Record the number of effort points collected by player.
7. **Reflection**: Review the features selected and discuss their value.

Write Down Your Score

What will you learn today?

Mess It Up - Signs that your backlog is unhealthy

Tidy It Up - Steps to keep only what Sparks Joy

Keep It Up - Ideas to maintain balance and joy

Should you fold your Features in Thirds?

#1 Get it together

Photo by Beth Macdonald on Unsplash

#2 Take Before Photos

#3 Declutter

Photo by Darwin Vegher on Unsplash

#4 Tidy In Order

Clothes, Books, Papers, Sentimental Items

Photo by JOSHUA COLEMAN on Unsplash

#5 Will this spark joy for my users?

Photo by Preslie Hirsch on Unsplash

#6 Discard with Gratitude

Photo by Marcos Paulo Prado on Unsplash

1. Small Team
2. 1-2 hour sessions
3. Timebox discussion: 2 mins
4. Decide

#7 Nice-to-Haves

Photo by Heather Barnes on Unsplash

1. Get it together
2. Take Before Photos
3. Declutter
4. Tidy In Order
5. Identify Things that Spark Joy
6. Discard with Gratitude
7. Review Nice-to-Haves Last

Photo by Niklas Ohlrogge on Unsplash

Backlog Shuffle

Round 2: Tidy It Up

1. **Declutter** – each player reviews their cards
    1. Remove cards older than 180 days.
    2. Remove anything that doesn't make sense to you.
    3. Remove duplicates.
2. **Sort them** in priority order.
3. **Review** your cards with your team. This is timeboxed at <u>five minutes.</u> During your turn:
    1. Read your card aloud to the other players.
    2. Players vote instantly with
        <u>Thumbs up</u> if it Sparks Joy or
        <u>Thumbs down</u> if it doesn't
    3. If the vote is not unanimous, discard the card with gratitude.
4. Each player takes a turn until your run out of cards or run out of time.
5. **Scoring**: Each player adds up the effort points from the cards that they get accepted into the backlog.

Write Down Your Score

What will you learn today?

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Keep It Up - Ideas to maintain balance and joy

Learn to say No

Photo by Kai Pilger on Unsplash

Photo by Loic Leray on Unsplash

Regular Refinement

Photo by Bamagal on Unsplash

Backlog Shuffle

Round 3: Keep It Up

Take three turns each, round-robin style. During your turn:

1. Roll the dice to determine your budget to build features.
2. Turn over a card from the draw pile, one at a time.
3. Add the effort points from each card until that total equals your budget without going over.
4. If the next card puts you over your budget, leave it face-down on the draw pile for the next player.
5. Keep your cards. This represents what features are built.
6. **Scoring**: Record the number of effort points collected by player.
7. **Reflection**: Review the features selected and discuss their value.

Write Down Your Score Determine the Winner!

Choose joy.

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Kathy Antol | Business Agility Coach

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