

# Agile Metrics – Why, What to consider, Examples and a checklist for your metrics

 [ontheagilepath.net/2015/07/agile-metrics-why-what-to-consider-examples-and-a-checklist-for-your-metrics.html](http://ontheagilepath.net/2015/07/agile-metrics-why-what-to-consider-examples-and-a-checklist-for-your-metrics.html)

By Sebastian Radics

With this post I share my slides about agile metrics that I presented originally at the Management 3.0 regular table in Munich. As I'm currently preparing a more detailed workshop about agile metrics I share parts of it during my next posts.

## The presentation about agile metrics

### Checklist for Agile Metrics

I found the checklist to be used for every metric we are using to be really useful.

<i>Point check</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>Description</i>
<b>Name</b>		This should be well chosen to <b>avoid ambiguity, confusion, oversimplification</b> .
<b>Question</b>		It should <b>answer a specific, clear question</b> for a particular role or group. If there are multiple questions, design other metrics.
<b>Basis of Measurement</b>		Clearly <b>state what is being measured</b> , including units. Labeling of graph axes must be clear rather than brief.
<b>Assumptions</b>		Should be identified to <b>ensure clear understanding</b> of data represented.
<b>Level and usage</b>		Indicate <b>intended usages</b> at various levels of the organization. Indicate limits on usage, if any.
<b>Expected Trend</b>		The designers of the metric should have some <b>idea of what they expect to see happen</b> . Once the metric is proven, document common trends.
<b>When to use it</b>		What prompted creation or use of this metric? How has it historically been used?
<b>When to stop using it</b>		When will it <b>outlive</b> its usefulness, become misleading or extra baggage? Design this in from the start.

<b>How to game it</b>	Think through the natural ways people will warp behavior or information to yield more 'favorable' outcomes.
<b>Warnings</b>	Recommend balancing metrics, limits on use, and dangers of improper use

Source: [Appropriate Agile Measurement by Deborah Hartmann and Robin Dymond](#)

### Some considerations

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The proposed measurements based on [Scrum Metrics for Hyperproductive Teams](#) I would not longer really suggest using it as they are all based on story points and I'm not longer using this way of estimation and instead prefer the [#NoEstimates](#) approach.

Instead I'm using more flow based measurements – see my post [unleash predictability by using Actionable Agile Metrics \(based on Actionable Agile Metrics for Predictability by Daniel S. Vacanti and my Book summary\)](#).

The part **Why** and **What to consider** I still highly recommend to consider for your metrics to be used.

### Further readings

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[Unleash predictability by using Actionable Agile Metrics \(based on Actionable Agile Metrics for Predictability by Daniel S. Vacanti and my Book summary\)](#)

[Agile Metrics Presentation](#) as Pdf

[Troy Magennis](#) work on Lean Forecasting e.g. [Agile Metrics for the Metrically Challenged](#)

[Martin Fowlers – Use of metrics](#)

[Appropriate Agile Measurement by Deborah Hartmann and Robin Dymond](#)