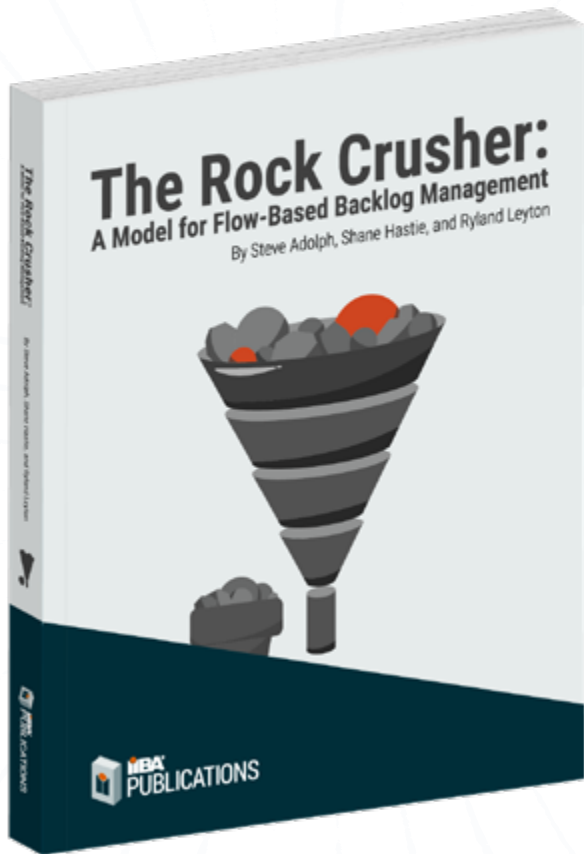# The Rock Crusher
A Model for Flow-Based Backlog Management
By Steve Adolph, Shane Hastie, and Ryland Leyton

The Rock Crusher offers an agile approach to backlog management, highlighting the power and simplicity of this essential tool in modern agile organizations. This new publication emphasizes the importance of the backlog as a single repository from which a team pulls its next most valuable work item, enabling agility through the ability to add, remove, reprioritize, and visualize potential work for a product.

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"Finally someone has splashed a dose of reality onto the broken flat backlog metaphor! Lots of great concepts and tools here."

-Jeff Patton, Chief Troublemaker
www.jpattonassociates.com

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS

STEVE ADOLPH

Steve started his career in engineering and building telephone switches and railway signalling systems. He became interested in agile when he started collaborating with Pattern Language aficionados at the PLoP conferences. Steve has a PhD in electrical and computer engineering and has numerous publication credits, including the book *Patterns for Effective Use Cases*, and was a member of the core team that developed *IIBA's Agile Extension to the BABOK® Guide version 2*. Today, he works as an agile coach with Cprime (Canada).

SHANE HASTIE

Shane has been a practitioner and leader of developers, testers, trainers, project managers, and business analysts, helping teams to deliver results that align with overall business objectives for over 35 years. Shane was a director of the Agile Alliance from 2011 to 2016, and was the founding Chair of Agile Alliance New Zealand. He was one of the authors of *The Agile Extension to the BABOK® Guide versions 1 and 2* and a member of the core team for *A Guide to the Business Analysis Body of Knowledge (BABOK® Guide) version* 3.

RYLAND LEYTON

Ryland Leyton is a business analyst, author, speaker, educator, agile coach, and technology translator. Ryland is an active member of IIBA, and speaks often on topics including business analysis, project management, agility, and career development. His professional contributions include being a member of the core team for the *Agile Extension to the BABOK® Guide version 2*, as well as the IIBA Agile Analysis Certification.

"*Agile approaches are now accepted practice and while the fundamentals of the agile mindset remain the same, we have seen a constant evolution in how we write code, create stories, and scale our collaboration. In that time, while so many things have evolved, the humble backlog has continued to sit in the background, useful, but barely different from its original conception. This book provides an overdue evolution of the backlog, embracing its strengths and confronting its challenges to reimagine what how it can be used in the modern agile organization. If the Rock Crusher is a reimagined backlog though, it is also more than that.*

The Rock Crusher becomes a holistic set of approaches that enable the team to improve flow and value across the organization".

-James King, Agile Coach

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