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www.afferentsoftware.com

Role: Product Owner

We are looking for an experienced Product Owner with expertise in AWS Cloud technologies to assist the developers, testers and entire Agile team to deliver both changes to existing software and entirely new Cloud-based products. This may feed into the high level design of the solutions (particularly where it's customer impacting), but will include backlog grooming, requirements to user story translation and liaison with both the customer, Product Manager and internal Project Manager.

To apply, please contact jobs@afferentsoftware.com

Company Key Selling points

- We care about our customers and our team; we like to work hard but we realise life is not only about work and we continuously work to make sure our people are happy and feel supported.
- We have a flexible culture with relaxed dress, flexible working hours (with optional late starting up to 10am), work from home possibilities, regular in-office lunches, and various office amenities including a pool table and an energising vibe.
- Although we are a small team of 25, you have the comfort of knowing the company has been around for more than 15 years and looks after its staff as a priority.
- We are committed to continuous innovation and bringing out the best products in Payments.
- We work with some big international customer names.
- Our people have the ability to travel to the UK and US amongst other countries visiting customers.
- We provide entry into, and training, in the highly complex and sought-after international Payments market.

Brief description

All successful candidates who join Afferent must demonstrate the following principles:

- Be able to earn the trust and respect of their colleagues
- Go above and beyond for their stakeholders / customers
- Have an extremely helpful attitude and be a team player
- Always leave things better than they found them
- Take initiative and ownership

- Take pride in what they produce and therefore produce high quality
- Be committed to the company but also be able to strike a balance

Qualities

The Product Owner is a senior figure within an Afferent Team. There are some fundamental qualities that we are looking for in our Product Owners:

- Ability to put himself or herself in the customer's place and identify their key needs and pain points.
- Ability to distinguish must-haves from nice-to-haves and having the ability to say no.
- Having a personality that can resolve conflicts and motivate their team to realize its full potential — without spurring resentment.
- Ability to work on multiple projects at one time.
- Being highly communicative and patient, answering all stakeholders queries, and being available to the team.
- Being highly knowledgeable about the products they are involved in and the product vision.
- Being able to successfully walk the balance between guiding the technical team with an understanding of why and what they are implementing without trying to dictate exactly how it is implemented.

Role Purpose

The Product Owner helps the development team to build the products by defining user stories and managing the product backlog that the development team can use and leading the requirements aspects of the Scrum process. Where they also fill the role of Business Analyst, they are responsible for maintaining a single source of truth for the business and user requirements of the project.

Core Responsibilities

- Within Afferent, the Product Owner often fills the role of Business Analyst. Where they fill this role, they are responsible for collecting and documenting clear business and user requirements from either a Product Manager or customer and maintaining these in a single location. This single location may be within a technical requirements document or a page in Confluence or an export of the Jira backlog. This single "source of truth" should be maintained throughout the project, ensuring all stakeholders are aware of any changes.
- Translating these business requirements / issues into actionable user stories in the product Jira backlog and defining clear, correct acceptance criteria.
- Working closely with engineering and quality control (QC) teams to ensure the right customer problem is solved through the process.
- Working with the QC team to ensure all bugs are reported and those agreed are fixed and tested.
- Having an understanding of the future direction of the product (e.g. security, scalability and robustness) to ensure that they can answer technical questions from the team with respect to the best and necessary way to implement today's features.
- Ensuring that the Project Manager is aware of any possible deviations to the schedule, budget or scope from their engagement with the team.
- Prioritising the sets of user stories that have been created to align with what will make sense to deliver first and what the customer will want to see first – thereby ensuring that the

development team is clear on what to work on next. This should be done in consultation with the Product Manager and Project Manager.

- Working closely with the development team to plan sprints.
- Ensuring that the structure of the project and development plans facilitates customer testing and feedback cycles as early as possible in the cycle.
- Performing continuous Jira backlog grooming (has the sole responsibility for this).
- Attending all Agile meetings run by the team to ensure that the development work is aligned with the roadmap set by the Product Manager or the external customer.
- Participating in daily scrum / stand-up meetings, and Sprint Retrospectives (which are organised and run by the Scrum Master).
- Within the Sprint Planning meeting, they should have the groomed backlog ready and be able to answer questions about the backlog in order for the team to estimate effectively. They are responsible for finalising the desired goal of the sprint based on the prioritised backlog and discussion with the team in this meeting. Note that this meeting is also organised and run by the Scrum Master.
- Within the Sprint Review/Demo meeting, although this can be facilitated by the Scrum Master, it is the Product Owner that is responsible for ensuring it happens, inviting the relevant attendees and driving the meeting and content.
- Being the final say on whether a user story can be set to “Done”.
- Communicating the voice of the customer (relating to requirements) to the development team and ensuring there always is an up-to-date single reference point for the customer’s requirements – where they fill the role of Business Analyst.
- Does not typically build a product roadmap that is discrete from the product roadmap set by the Product Manager. But they should work closely with the Product Manager to review the product roadmap and make sure priorities are aligned and that there are no technical limitations or points to consider before committing an item to the roadmap.

Qualifications & Experience

Bachelor’s degree in a business, software or related field from a recognised institution

Minimum 3 years’ experience as a Product Owner or similar role within a software organisation, preferably in AWS / Payments

Experience with Agile development methodologies like Scrum

Experience with Atlassian Jira and Confluence

Proven leadership skills

Excellent analytical abilities and outstanding time management skills

Ability to deal with stress, as the job will entail obstacles, challenges and a lot of responsibility.

Proficiency in Cloud technologies and standard Windows-based IT applications

Technical Information

The Products that the Product Owner will be involved with use the following technologies

- Windows (Windows 10, Windows Server)
- Java (Spring Framework)
- Angular2+ (SCSS, TS)
- HTML+CSS+JS

- Databases (Microsoft SQL Server, SQL Databases)
- Amazon Web Services