

# Brewer's Yeast: The Product Owner's Influence

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Two brewers can use the exact same ingredients, but two different types of yeast, and the results will be two very different tasting brews. Like yeast in brewing, the Product Owner's influence has one of the strongest impacts on the "flavor" – and the success — of the final systems product.

In this talk, Ron will define a very specific role for the Product Owner in the delivery of valuable systems, going beyond the often vaguely described task of "merely" providing a prioritized backlog. The role that Ron defines has four fundamental parts:

1. Defining the most valuable requirement to work on next
2. Defining implementable (releasable, that is) units of value
3. Establishing context by being Guardian of the Vision
4. Ensuring that process, product, and quality feedback loops are in place

The way the Product Owner approaches each of these tasks will, like brewer's yeast, influence the identity and quality of the resulting product.

***Ronald Thompson** started his career as a programmer and enjoyed solving technical problems. Soon, however, he decided that he liked solving business problems better. For the past 30 years, Ron has worked and consulted on various aspects of delivering quality systems solutions, primarily by facilitating better communication between business and technical folks. He is currently serving as product owner for a long-time agile team at ePlan Services in Denver.*