

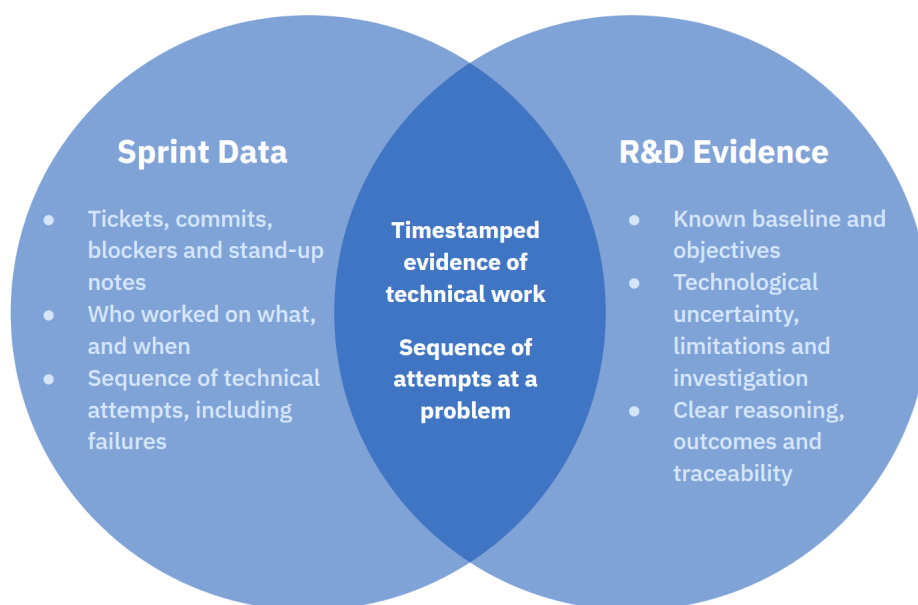
Why Your Sprint Data May Already Cover Your R&D Time Tracking

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If your engineering team works in sprints, you're already generating a timestamped record of technical work. Opened and closed tickets, commits made, blockers logged, and standup notes are recorded. Many engineers never think of this data as R&D evidence, but if done right, it can act as a head start in getting the most out of your R&D work.

Intentionally utilising sprint data as part of R&D tracking can reduce duplicate record keeping for engineers while building a solid, traceable evidence layer for the organisation.

What sprint data actually captures



A diagram comparing sprint data and R&D evidence

A sprint board tracks what was worked on, by whom, and roughly when. A ticket history can show the sequence of attempts on a problem, including the ones that didn't work. This is often the most valuable part of an R&D record, since it contributes to the evidence of technological uncertainty and investigation that a tax credit or grant claim needs to show. Commit messages can capture technical reasoning at the moment it happened, which is worth far more than a rough reconstruction six months later.

However, sprint data does not automatically differentiate between innovation and routine work. Whether tickets represent work on resolving a real technological uncertainty or tried-and-true engineering has to be judged, and it's a mistake to assume sprint data alone will satisfy an auditor.

Where it's strong is as a repetition-reducing base layer. Rather than asking engineers to fill duplicate forms in an R&D time-logging system, existing sprint data can be pulled in, especially if it was created with reuse in mind. Including information such as technical objectives, known baselines, uncertainty/limitations, and approaches in sprint data will improve its applicability to R&D. Direct integrations exist for the tools teams already use day to day, and less standard exports can still be mapped in with a bit of structure.

What this means in practice

Sprint data is most valuable when it reduces repeated entry while preserving the chronology of technical investigation. For engineers, the improvement should feel like a small adjustment to existing work record keeping. For the organisation, it creates a detailed timeline of evidence that can support funding and technological development down the line.
