

Agile Mehods

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Problems in Current S/W Developments

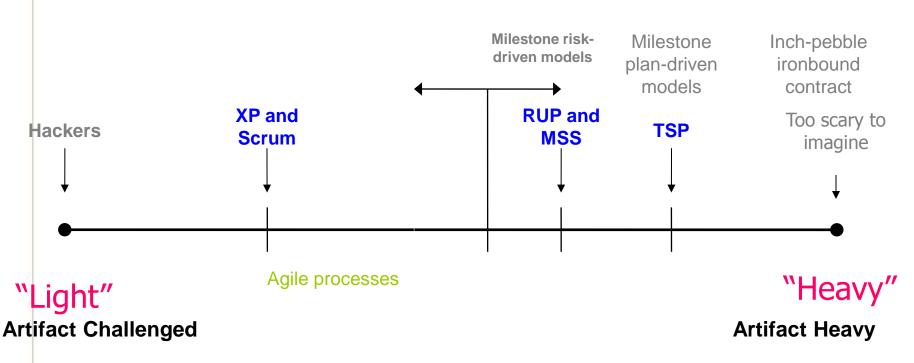
• Systems are regularly delivered late or over budget if at all

 Customers do not trust nor work with developers because they have been burned so many times

• Software developers are getting burnt out because of long hours

Process Spectrum

Weight = amount of project overhead/code



Adapted from Justin Rockwood, "Choose your Weapon Wisely," 2003





What is Agile Methods?

- Webster Dictionary:
 - "Marked by ready ability to move with quick easy grace"
- As applied to Software Development:
 - "Ability to change development in response to changing requirements" Cockburn
- The Agile Manifesto [http://agilemanifesto.org/]
 - "A method of software development that aims for customer satisfaction through early and continuous delivery of useful software components"

Why Agile Processes?

What agile proponents say:

- Flexibility
 - Market Changes
 - Technology Changes (Moore's Law)
 - Unclear Requirements
- More coding, less paper-work
- Higher quality, quicker



But, opponents say....

- No plan, no structure
 - Architecture?
 - Easily derailed
- Inefficient use of developers
 - pair programming
- No documentation
- Unrealistic customer involvement



Today Trend in Agile

"More than 2/3's of all corporate IT organizations will use some form of agile software development process in the next 18 months."

Giga Information Group Inc., 2002

- Cutter Report "Agile vs. Heavy"
- Use is increasing

Agile vs. Non-Agile Methods

AGILE

- Extreme Programming
- Crystal
- SCRUM
- Development Method (DSDM)
- Adaptive Software Development (ASD)
- Feature-Driven
 Development (FDD)
- Pragmatic Programming

NON-AGILE

- Waterfall
- Spiral
- RUP
- Cleanroom
- Prototyping
- CMM/CMMi
- PSP/TSP

Agile - History

• Started at a meeting on February 11-13 2001 at the Snowbird Ski resort in the Wasatch mountains of Utah, USA

- At the end of this meeting:
 - "Agile 'Software Development' Manifesto"
 - Kent Beck, Alistar Cockburn, etc

Principles of the Agile Manifesto - I

- Our highest priority is to satisfy the customer through early and continuous delivery of valuable software
- Welcome changing requirements, even late in development. Agile processes harness change for customer's competitive advantage
- Deliver working software frequently, from a couple of weeks to a couple of months, with a preference to the shorter time scale
- Business people and developers must work together daily throughout the project
- Build projects around motivated individuals. Give them the environment and support that they need, and trust them to get the job done
- The most efficient and effective method of conveying information to and within a development team is face-to-face conversation

Principles of the Agile Manifesto - II

- Working software is the primary measure of progress
- Agile processes promote sustainable development.
- The sponsors, developers, and users should be able to maintain a constant pace indefinitely
- Continuous attention to technical excellence and good design enhances agility
- Simplicity—the art of maximizing the amount of work not done—is essential
- The best architectures, requirements, and designs emerge from selforganizing teams
- At regular intervals, the team reflects on how to become more effective, then tunes and adjusts it's behavior accordingly



Agile Value Statements - I

We are uncovering better ways of developing software by doing it and helping others do it. Through this work we have come to value:

- Individuals and interactions over processes and tools
 - Team dynamics
 - experience mix, team size
 - Physical workspace, communality, meetings
- Working software over comprehensive documentation
 - Code primary artifact
 - Iterative (subscription)
 - Value to the customer
 - QA inherent



Agile Value Statements - II

- Customer collaboration over contract negotiation
 - Customer Onsite (Involved/Knowledgeable)
 - Requirements Centric
 - Rapid Return of Perceived Value
 - Customer Expectation Management
- Responding to change over following a plan Developer / Customer Team
 - Emergent Requirements
 - Short Iterations
 - Smaller changes
 - Adaptation



Weaknesses of Agile Methods

- Communication is critical
- Projects with Non- Decomposability / Coupled Functionality
- Scalability
- Reliance on Corporate Knowledge
 - Document at End
- Maintenance
- Long Life Cycle
- Centralized management control
- "Big" Specifications
- Required Documentation
 - Safety Critical
- Non-flexible work environment
- Fixed Price and Scope

Agile Center Piece - Coding

- Emphasizing what we do best
 - What we prefer to do
- Lack of formal design, architecture
- Lack of documentation
 - But makes you think about what is important

Pros vs. Cons of Agile Methods

PROS

- Help organizations deal situations with uncertain requirements, resources, time, and risks
- Build working software quickly

CONS

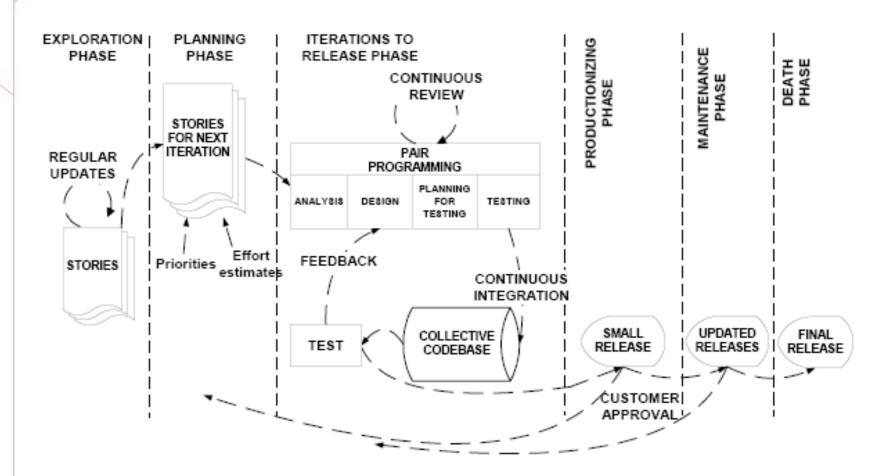
- Must consider the skills of the people involved
- Consider the process and how well they account for your unique needs
- Consider the management and reporting techniques used to control the project

Agile - Application Areas

 Applications that can be built quickly and don't require extensive quality assurance, analysis, design, code, and testing

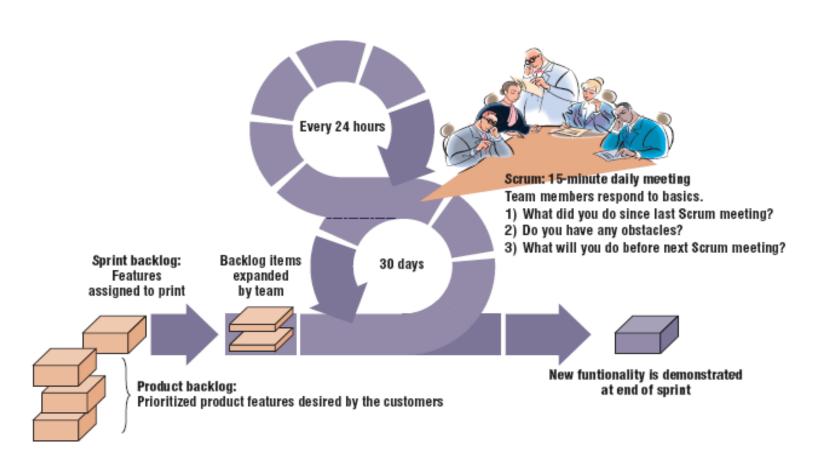
• Small in-house teams developing software for quick to market applications

eXtreme Programming



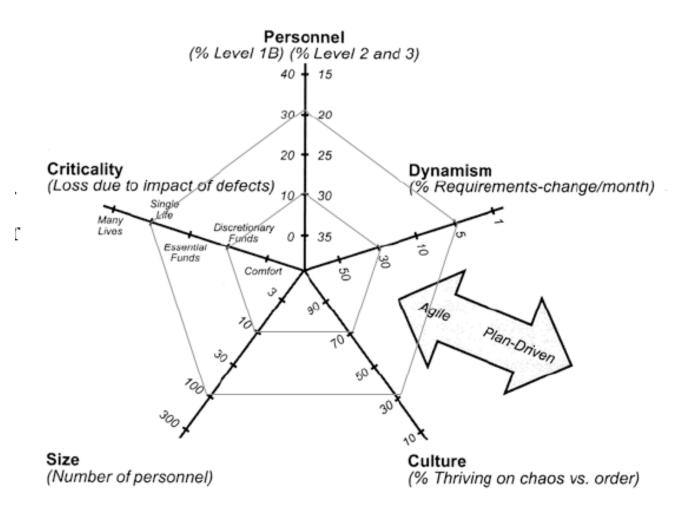
Source: Agile Software Development Methods: Review & Analysis

Scrum Process



Source: IEEE Software, Volume 22, Issue 5, Sept.-Oct. 2005

How to Balance???



Boehm and Turner: "Balancing Agility with Discipline," 2004

Q & A

