

Agility – Myths and Realities

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**Myths provides us the comfort of opinion,
without the discomfort of thought**

- John F Kennedy

- Most of the recent publicity is regarding XP
 - Newest of the light weight processes
 - More controversial
 - > Pair programming
 - > YAGNI
 - Productivity tools
 - > xUnit framework
 - > Fit
 - Productivity techniques
 - > Test driven development

What is Agile?

- Refers to set of methodologies
 - Proponents believe in agile manifesto
 - Agile-alliance website lists more than 10 methodologies
- Agile Manifesto

Individuals and interactions **over** processes and tools
Working software **over** comprehensive documentation
Customer collaboration **over** contract negotiation
Responding to change **over** following a plan

That is, while there is value in the items on the right, we value the items on the left more.

- One more business story
 - That does not need writing code
 - May not have value for the product
 - > But can have organizational benefits
 - May need adaptation of practices

- Subex systems is a ISO 9001 certified company
- Using PAS
- Modified some practices
- Internal audits
 - Used for learning
- Metrics
 - Team specific
- External audits
 - Impressed by traceability
 - Impressed by quality consciousness

- Why do we design?
 - For future maintainability of the system
 - For flexibility so that new features can be added
- Where is the design
 - Is it only coding without a thought for maintenance?

Case study



- Product: Ranger™
- Nature: Fraud Management System
- Install base: > 65 in > 30 countries
- Platform: C++/Java/Oracle/SQL
- Developers: > 30

Case study



- Product: Marathon
- Nature: Acceptance Test framework
- Install base: Unknown (> 1000 downloads of latest version)
- Platform: Java/Python
- Developers: 2 (at this time)

What is meant by “no design”?



- No design phase
- No design document

Pair programming – Doubles the cost



- Cost of reviews
- Cost of training
- Cost of fixing bugs

- Mentioned in XP1e
- Ring of snakes – “XP refactored”
- Most practices bring in value by themselves
 - Test Driven Development
 - Pair programming
 - Automated unit and customer tests
 - Continuous integration
- XP2e recognizes this
 - Primary practices
 - Corollary practices

- Need buy in from all stake holders
- Look for a coach
 - At the least a senior development team member who is interested in the process
- Experimentation
 - Start with a project
 - Monitor the progress
- Need for planning
 - Training needs
 - Study the ground

Thanks