



# Agile Blending

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# Which Way?

*"Cheshire-puss," she began rather timidly,  
"would you tell me, please, which way I ought  
to go from here?"*

*"That depends a great deal on where you want  
to get to," said the cat.*

*"I don't care much where..." said Alice.*

*"Then it doesn't matter which way you go," said  
the cat.*

Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll



# Agile Flavors?



A perfect blend?



# Methodologists United!



*"I kicked off "The Lightweight Process Summit" with a 10 minute plea for a manifesto, and then watched with awe and glee as these people, with some deep philosophical differences, found themselves in fundamental agreement with the notion that what we shared in common was more important than our differences."*

**Bob Martin**

# Manifesto for Agile Software Development

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

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.

**[www.agilemanifesto.org](http://www.agilemanifesto.org)**

# Method Camps



**SCRUM**



**XP**



**CRYSTAL**

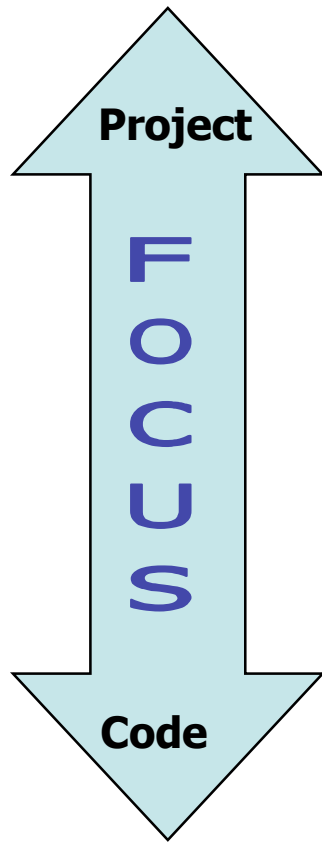


**DSDM**



**LEAN**

# Focus across methods



- Dynamic Systems Development Method (DSDM Atern)
- Agile Project Management (APM)
- Lean software development
- Scrum
- Extreme Programming (XP)

# The Agile Elephant



# Methodologist vs Methodist

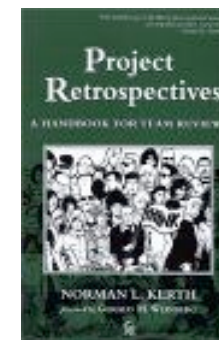
# Banging the Drum

- Keeping a method simple makes it easy to transmit and easy to understand



# Agile Books

- Use as source of ideas
- Not “religious” texts
- Read more than one!



# What's optional?

Can you say you're doing X method if you are not doing Y practice?

Classic conversation about XP circa 2000

- “We're trying XP but struggling..”
- “Are you doing ALL the 12 practices?”
- “They're **reinforcing** practices”

# How Scrum are you?

Can you claim to be a Scrum team ..

- if you don't have a Sprint Review?
- if you don't deliver a Product Increment at the end of each Sprint?
- if you don't have a Sprint Retrospective?
- if you don't have a visible Sprint Burndown?
- if you don't have a defined Sprint Goal?
- if your Product Backlog is not prioritized?

# How XP are you?

Can you claim to be an XP team ..

- if you don't use index cards?
- if you don't write code test-first?
- if you don't program in pairs?
- if you don't sit together?
- If you don't have an onsite customer?

It seems that some practices are more optional than others

# What practices can you add?

- I work with Scrum teams who use XP practices like Velocity, Test-First and User Stories describe their Product Backlog
- I work with XP teams who use Burndown charts, Retrospectives and Daily Scrum format
- I work with Lean teams who use a mix of the above

# Distributed Agile?

Agile manifesto principles:

Business people and developers must **work together** daily throughout the project.

Build projects around motivated individuals. Give them the **environment** and support 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.

How much do we need to be “agile”?

# Makeovers

- As gurus explain the practices over and over, they start to realise the short comings of particular practice labels
- Labels evolve
  - eg, 40 Hour Week > Sustainable Pace > Energized Work
- New practices folded in
  - Eg, Sprint Retrospectives in Scrum

# Evolution

- Approaches to software development evolve.
- Teams come up with techniques that work their way into the mainstream practice
- This happens through community - user groups, wiki, mailing lists, conferences, etc.

# Back to the Agile Ice cream Parlour



# Common Approach

- One method for any project context
- Simplistic agile transitions
  - get training
  - allocate roles
  - follow the process
- This doesn't usually work!

# Follow the instructions..



Predictable results

# Agile Fitness Program

We don't go on a diet because we like it -  
we're after results.

First: assess and establish goals

Rethink: exercise and diet that will help



Agile != tools training



# Agile=individuals & interactions



# Agile = Collaboration & Teamwork



# Agile = Environment Matters!



Agile = learning from experience



# Agile=reflection



# My Advice

- Agile is an adjective not a noun!
- Don't get hung up too much by the methodology :-)
- Use the principles of the manifesto of agile software development to guide your team.
- Conway's Law
  - Pay attention to communication and everything else will follow...

No agile method is a sacred  
text carved in stone!

The Manifesto is a useful  
guide - nothing more, nothing  
less

Developing a Learning  
Culture will get you a lot  
further than Method  
Correctness

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# LOOK AROUND YOU

