

GSAW 2007 Tutorial E:

Agile Development → Agile Acquisition?

Length: Half day

Overview:

How did this tutorial project start? One day author received a message from an Aerospace colleague: “I am doing a Quality Assurance assessment on the software engineering and development activities of a customer who is using an agile development approach. The emphasis has been on working software, and to date, they have been very successful. Their documentation is very sparse - basically, a Systems Security Plan and a design spec, with GUI designs only. They don't have a logical component model, a data model, or even interface descriptions. There are lots of white papers written by people in your group about core documentation for large DOD programs, but this customer would never consider creating all of the documents recommended in these papers. My question to you: What essential documentation should be developed for an agile program?” She was right, of course. Since the demise of Acquisition Reform, the Software Acquisition and Process Department has been pushing for more documentation and not less, so we did not have a readymade, easy answer for her. During the discussions that followed this inquiry I realized that – particularly since there is no simple answer for these questions – maybe a tutorial would be more appropriate, where the audience has an opportunity to weigh all the pertinent factors. In this session, we will provide an overview of the concepts and representative implementations of agile software development, and seek answers to the following two questions. First, to what extent do these development methods support agile acquisition? Second, we will take a closer look at the current acquisition needs on the basis of the 2006 DAPA (Defense Acquisition Performance Assessment) Report, and see if the methods the agile camp’s representatives propose in fact support those acquisition needs. Besides weapons’ acquisition and software, we will talk about building construction, rugby, psychology, just to mention a few stimulating topics, and there will be a lot of opportunity for voicing your opinion. Finally, if you really want to find out the actual answer to the original question, you must absolutely. come...

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