

Mastering Agile Requirements: Principles, Process, and Practices

Duration

2 days

Instructor

Jennitta Andrea

Class Limit

20 students

Prerequisite

None

Price

On-site

Please contact SPC
for pricing (contact
information on page 2)

Public Training

\$1,495 (2 days)

Materials Provided

- Student manual containing the course slides
- Student handouts with class exercises

An Agile software development approach is designed to accommodate changing project priorities and unstable or emerging requirements with minimal impact to budget or schedule. The process further aims to minimize effort by specifying requirements without introducing risk or waste. This delicate balancing act can prove quite challenging when the process does not fit the team perfectly. As a result, many of Agile's intended benefits are lost before the project is underway.

This two-day course provides hands-on knowledge of the core principles, process and practices that will enable you to quickly and effectively implement Agile approaches, improve your project management methods, shorten your development schedule, and increase the quality of your products.

Unlike most courses the only superficially cover Agile, this workshop is an immersion experience in the full spectrum of inter-related topics: process adaptation, retrospectives, user stories, and functional tests. Real world case studies add valuable insights in how these ideas can be applied to a variety of situations.

Learning Topics

- *Agile foundations*: the core values and principles that drive out all project decisions; what it really means to be Agile.
- *Upstream and downstream waste*: recognizing all forms of waste within a requirements process.
- *Radar graphs*: visual thinking-tools for assessing how well the requirements process fits a project context.
- *Optimization strategies*: context driven approach to eliminating waste, and improving the agility of a requirements process
- *Continuous improvement*: techniques for conducting retrospectives to enable teams to recognize and resolve process problems.
- *Span plans*: workflow models for generating user stories, and developing a well-organized 'big picture' of the target system.
- *Test-driven development*: as it applies to the full software development lifecycle, and the entire life span of a project.
- *Best practices*: make functional tests effective requirements specifications and an automated regression safety net.

In addition to the workshop manual and case studies, all participants will also receive peer-reviewed, published articles Jennitta has written on process adaptation, functional tests as specification, and effective project retrospectives.

TRAINING

Mastering Agile Requirements: Principles, Process, and Practices

Instructor

Jennitta Andrea's professional software career spans twenty years. Her domain experience includes telecommunications, petroleum, health care, electrical utilities, and rail transportation. Her technical experience covers compilers, software methodologies, expert systems, object oriented development, and Agile methods. She has been involved in over a dozen different Agile projects as a hands-on practitioner - process coach, tester, analyst, retrospective facilitator, and developer.

As an early adopter of Agile methods in 2000 Jennitta has consistently contributed to the advancement of the state-of-the art through the publication of many experience-based papers for international conferences and software journals. Jennitta is a keen observer of teams and process, and brings these valuable insights to her practical and engaging training sessions that cover Agile requirements, process adaptation, automated functional testing, and project retrospectives.

She is serving her second term on the Agile Alliance Board of Directors, is a member of the Advisory Board of IEEE Software, and has assisted on several conference committees. Jennitta has a B.Sc. in Computing Science (Distinction) from the University of Calgary.

For more information on this or other SPC Springboard courses, please visit www.spcspringboard.com or e-mail SPC at info@spc.ca

Software Productivity Center Inc.
Suite 460 - 1122 Mainland Street
Vancouver, BC V6B 5L1

Vancouver: 604.662.8181 Toll Free: 1.877.548.1948

Fax: 604.689.0141

Intended Audience

This course is valuable for anyone involved in gathering, documenting, analyzing, or managing functional requirements for an Agile project. Knowledge of an Agile process such as eXtreme Programming (XP) is beneficial, but not required. Experience with user stories and writing functional tests is beneficial, but not required.

Outline

Instead of following a course outline, a prioritized iteration plan of learning objectives will be created, which will adapt to change as priorities and circumstances dictate. Each learning objective (student story) will close by executing acceptance tests to ensure the students understand and have internalized the concepts.

Principles

- Agile values, principles, and core practices
- Agile requirements
- Recognizing and eliminating waste

Process

- Radar graphs: deconstruct requirements process and project characteristics
- Strategies for tuning an Agile requirements process
- Project retrospectives: interim, milestone, final
- Simulation: experience a project, conduct a retrospective, tune the process, re-run the project with the modified process.
- Case studies: Agile request for proposal process, Agile legacy renewal process

Practices

- Span plans: visualizing the big picture
- User stories: where do they come from?
- Functional tests: effective requirements specification
- Automation: strategies and best practices for automating functional tests
- Case studies: Greenfield project, legacy renewal project



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