

XP At An International Company

An Experience Report

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Findings



- XP is: Managing Expectations
 - XP not a silver bullet
 - No guarantee for defect free software
- If on-site customer not possible, try representative user
- Project manager role is less dominant
- Architecture changes, too

Issues



- On-site customer is not possible (users are spread around the globe)
 - intranet tool for user stories and backlog
- It is tempting to fall back into old habits, e.g. writing code first and then test
- Tools support for agile methods
- Negotiations with Customers
 - no specifications document
- How to measure productivity improvement?
 - before/after introduction of Agile Methods / XP

Future



- Better tools support
- New class of tools?
- Agile methods will be competitive advantage
 - Two types of companies: The fast ones, and the dead ones
- Education of Programmers should include theory and practice of Agile Methods

On-Site Customer



- Not possible for internationally distributed system users
- Representative Users
 - enter user stories in internet-based tool
- Program Manager
 - consolidates user stories
 - set priorities together with representative users

Risk



- Reduced by early feedback, e.g
- spike solutions help finding technical solutions
- early functional prototypes allows users to track the actual system
- low latency for changes allow short-term reaction to changing requirements
- simple design reduces complexity

Documentation



- One three-page document for support terminology
- One table for user stories (backlog)
- index cards for
 - system trouble incidents
 - software defects, user misunderstanding
 - user stories
 - tasks

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