Abstract

Agile & CMMI: Partners in process improvement

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In an industry that is becoming progressively more competitive and lean the process used to develop systems and software is the last frontier for competitive advantage. No longer is one country or culture dominating the software profession. Similar education, technologies, infrastructure, and skills are available to all corners of the world, but innovative and useful processes that harness these resources effectively have eluded all but a handful of organizations.

With their high-failure rates, high cost, and over-reliance on mountains of documentation, over complicated and ill-deployed processes have soured the industry on processes based on models such as CMMI, ITIL, ISO, and SPICE. But the success or failure of the systems development process doesn't lie in these source models, but in the interpretation and deployment of processes *based* on those models, and this distinction can make the difference between a vibrant and innovative company and one that is struggling for survival.

The application of agile methods to the development of software and systems has revolutionized the industry, but consistency, predictability, and repeatability still have not been realized by most engineering and IT organizations. The CMMI provides an excellent model for the integration of agility with disciplined structure that will address these business needs, but the method used to develop such an approach has never materialized.

Jeff Dalton has authored a methodology, called "*AgileCMMI,*" that uses *Encapsulated Process Objects* and *Process Patterns* as the building blocks for process design, using concepts that are familiar to engineers and *agilistas* alike, and providing them with the flexibility and value they need to successfully delivery products using Agile methods.

In His keynote presentation will summarize research conducted "CMMI or Agile: Why not Embrace Both?!" and will discuss the reasons for the perceived conflict between agile and CMMI, as well as address some surprising findings and solutions.