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Abstract

Earth System Documentation (ES-DOC) is an international project supplying high-quality tools & services in support of earth system documentation creation, analysis and dissemination. It is nurturing a sustainable standards based documentation eco-system that aims to become an integral part of the next generation of exa-scale dataset archives. ES-DOC leverages open source software, and applies a software development methodology that places end-user narratives at the heart of all it does.

ES-DOC has initially focused upon nurturing the earth system model (ESM) documentation eco-system and currently supporting the following projects:

*   Coupled Model Inter-comparison Project Phase 5 (CMIP5);
*   Dynamical Core Model Inter-comparison Project (DCMIP);
*   NCPP Quantitative Evaluation of Downscaling Workshop.

This talk will demonstrate that ES-DOC implements a relatively mature software development process. Taking a pragmatic Agile process as inspiration, ES-DOC:

*   Iteratively develops and releases working software;
*   Captures user requirements via a narrative based approach;
*   Uses online collaboration tools (COGS) to manage progress.
*   Prototypes applications to validate their feasibility;
*   Leverages meta-programming techniques as much as possible;
*   Automates testing wherever both sensible and possible;
*   Streamlines complex deployments to a single command;
*   Extensively leverages GitHub and Pivotal Tracker;
*   Enforces strict separation of the UI from underlying API's;
*   Conducts code reviews;