Quality in an Agile World

The article introduces common agile software development techniques and argues that they lead to much higher quality software than traditional techniques do. It starts with a little bit of history on the agile movement and the conclusion that the 17 members reached. That is, that “to succeed at software development one must focus on people-oriented issues and follow development techniques that readily support change”. The agile techniques that the article touches are Refactoring, Test-driven development (TDD), Tests replace traditional artifacts, Agile model driven development (AMDD).

The Refactoring is a disciplined way to make small changes to source code to improve its design while retaining its semantic behavior. Agile developers consider refactoring essential in order to deliver “High quality product” which is a characteristic of agilest.

Test-driven development is an approach to programming where agile software developers must first write a test that fails before they write new functional code. The advantages are: it forces developers to think about what new functional code should do before they write it, it ensures that agile developers have testing code available to validate their work ensuring that they test as often then possible, and it gives them the courage to refactor their code to keep it the highest quality as possible.

Test replace traditional artifacts is when agile developers become “test infected”. That is, they realize that tests are as much important as the high quality source code they develop. They discovered that these philosophies lead in reducing dramatically there amount of work, and because of that, they treat there test cases as first class artifacts.

Agile model driven development, or Amdd, is the modeling tool used by the agilist. The model does not require that everyone is a modeling expert but instead people have some knowledge of the domain problem and thereby willing to learn new things.

The area of software testing is new to me so I do not have opinions about this article but reading threw job adds I encounter often that they want knowledge in agile mythology. So the article was useful in the sense that I know what it is and how it works.