

Information Visualization for Agile Software Development Teams

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Summary

Effective communication is important for Agile teams, and complex information about software artifacts is best transmitted using visual media. The paper examines several of the common information visualization techniques used in Agile to better understand their effectiveness, difficulties, and to raise awareness of these techniques by conducting an extensive literature review.

Strengths

- Their methodology returned over 50 papers which they claim have relevance to the topic, which seems like a robust source of data.
- In lieu of 3 strengths, I expanded greatly upon the weaknesses of the paper, as I struggled to find good strengths. One might say the large number of cited papers, but are they effective citations or fluff?

Weaknesses

- Too much of the paper seems like fluff. I did not like the paper overall. I felt like it could be cut in half easily, but also lacks important details. The organization is rather poor - the citations are not very effective, and feel more like they are trying to claim legitimacy by large number of cited papers. The goal of a paper like this is to **synthesize other research**, yet the information is all over the paper. From their abstract: *"...it is not clear what is the most effective technique..."* and *"Our findings show that visualization techniques help Agile teams increase knowledge sharing and raise awareness"*. After reading the paper, I am still unable to answer what the most effective technique is. Table II is a good start, but it needs to be improved on - for an example, the Design category, with purpose to understand overall system. They cite 68 papers, how many of these 68 conclude IV techniques improve design? How did the listed papers conclude? all the papers in the chart concluded these techniques were helpful? There were no downsides?
- Lack of metrics supporting their conclusion (i.e, 80% of papers reviewed concluded xxxx was helpful, etc.) and these should be visualized and highlighted. **This paper is about transmitting information visually, and does a very poor job of that - the images are not very informative.**
- Whiteboards are barely mentioned in the paper, only one sentence. This seems to be one of the most common/biggest means of communicating information visually with team members.
- The effectiveness/difficulties of many methods were not examined - simply described.
- Lack of effective visual tools.