

Necessary and Neglected? An Empirical Study of Internal Documentation in Agile Software Development Teams

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Summary

Examination into documentation use for Agile teams. This paper only covered Scrum, and found that face communication was valued much greater than documentation. Issues discussed included situations such as distributed/global development, time zone differences, and other issues that prevent teams from having face to face communication. The teams were asked about how their work is documented and the opinion of amount and importance of internal documentation.

Strengths

- In depth analysis of Scrum documentation practices on these teams
- Results from 13 different countries instead of one or two helps differentiate between cultural trends and those resulting from Agile.
- Encouraged truthful response and made available more details from the data source, such as variance, to offset the small sample size with transparency.

Weaknesses

- Focuses on only a subset of Agile (scrum). Is this applicable to other Agile methodologies?
- Low sample size.
- The contribution of this paper is a little unclear -- a survey paper, but the conclusions drawn are very generalized and not necessarily specific to Scrum or even Agile but software development as a whole in some cases.