The dark side of Agile software development – section criticizes those who first began using agile as their tool of choice. It mentions that agile methods are not a recognized standard in software development. I feel like agile was always going to have to go through these growing pains. Those zealots adopting agile, causing financial harm to their companies, and muddying the agile waters should be seen as heroes rather than be mocked. How would you know it doesn’t work for something if you don’t try.

The agile manifesto is a very loose guideline to agile way of thinking. The writer talks about a “Cynical interpretation” of the manifesto. While it might be cynical, it’s not incorrect.

I feel like the guru problem is contradictory to the first criticism towards early adopters of agile methods. How can you criticize one party for hoarding information while at the same time criticizing those who are trying to learn regardless.

Certainly, if it’s true that agile was understood only by a few people, it’s an issue. It’s really a testament to agile benefits that they managed to survive for so long, though it makes me dislike them a little bit. Scrum was first introduced in the 1990s and the first scrum guide was released in 2010.

Crazy situation to have in a field as data driven as information technology. To think there was a period more than a decade long when the industry was strong armed by a few people/companies. The information certainly was valuable to those companies and can’t fault them for holding on to it.

The solution proposed was an interesting one. It suggests that instead of paying for someone to tell them how to implement agile, companies learn more about their experience with agile. This implies that a systems thinking approach should be adopted.

Since the paper was published, learning from experience has been common. A quick look at google scholar has several papers with titles like “Agile lessons learned”. Reading a few of them reveals that one of the biggest issues with agile methodologies these days is cultural resistance. This is coupled with lack of training within companies and agile’s success being closely tied to team’s ability to organize.

Agile methodologies are common in 2023. There is lots of training available for people willing to learn, including this course right now. Agile zealots still exist, and waterfall is sometimes looked down upon. Good companies will be able to use the correct methodologies each project.