

Software Engineering

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Agile Software Development- eXtreme Programming(XP)

- Agile methods are incremental development methods that focus on rapid development, frequent releases of the software, reducing process overheads and producing high-quality code. They involve the customer directly in the development process.
- The decision on whether to use an agile or a plan-driven approach to development should depend on the type of software being developed, the capabilities of the development team and the culture of the company developing the system.
- **Extreme programming is a well-known agile method that integrates a range of good programming practices such as frequent releases of the software, continuous software improvement and customer participation in the development team.**

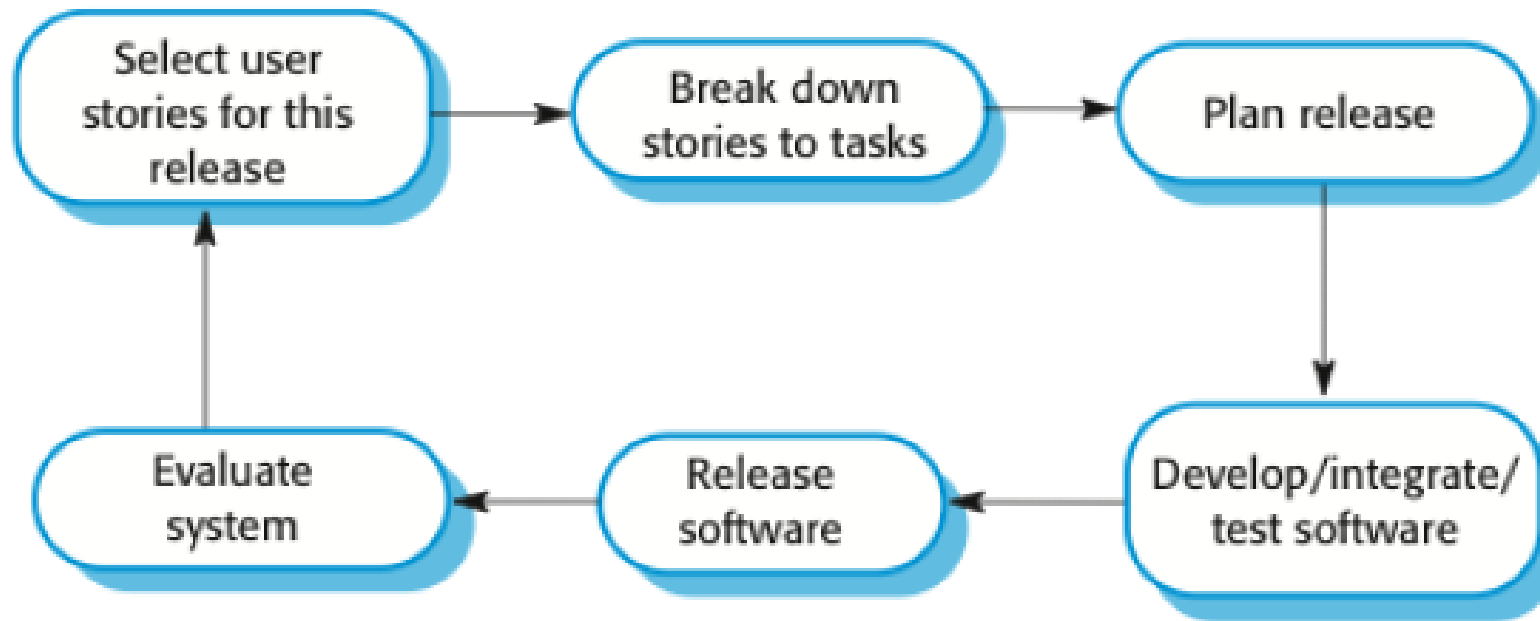
eXtreme Programming(XP)

- Perhaps the best-known and most widely used agile method.
- **Extreme Programming (XP) takes an 'extreme' approach to iterative development.**
 - **New versions may be built several times per day;**
 - **Increments are delivered to customers every 2 weeks;**
 - **All tests must be run for every build and the build is only accepted if tests run successfully.**

XP and agile principles

- **Incremental development** is supported through small, frequent system releases.
- **Customer involvement** means full-time customer engagement with the team.
- **People not process** through pair programming, collective ownership and a process that avoids long working hours.
- **Change** supported through regular system releases.
- **Maintaining simplicity** through constant refactoring of code.

The Extreme Programming release cycle



Extreme programming practices (a)

Principle or practice	Description
Incremental planning	Requirements are recorded on story cards and the stories to be included in a release are determined by the time available and their relative priority. The developers break these stories into development 'Tasks'. See Figures 3.5 and 3.6.
Small releases	The minimal useful set of functionality that provides business value is developed first. Releases of the system are frequent and incrementally add functionality to the first release.
Simple design	Enough design is carried out to meet the current requirements and no more.
Test-first development	An automated unit test framework is used to write tests for a new piece of functionality before that functionality itself is implemented.
Refactoring	All developers are expected to <u>refactor</u> the code continuously as soon as possible code improvements are found. This keeps the code simple and maintainable.

Extreme programming practices (b)

Pair programming	Developers work in pairs, checking each other's work and providing the support to always do a good job.
Collective ownership	The pairs of developers work on all areas of the system, so that no islands of expertise develop and all the developers take responsibility for all of the code. Anyone can change anything.
Continuous integration	As soon as the work on a task is complete, it is integrated into the whole system. After any such integration, all the unit tests in the system must pass.
Sustainable pace	Large amounts of overtime are not considered acceptable as the net effect is often to reduce code quality and medium term productivity
On-site customer	A representative of the end-user of the system (the customer) should be available full time for the use of the XP team. In an extreme programming process, the customer is a member of the development team and is responsible for bringing system requirements to the team for implementation.

Requirements scenarios

- In XP, a customer or user is part of the XP team and is responsible for making decisions on requirements.
- **User requirements are expressed as scenarios or user stories.**
- These are written on cards and the development team break them down into implementation tasks. These tasks are the basis of schedule and cost estimates.
- The customer chooses the stories for inclusion in the next release based on their priorities and the schedule estimates.

Refactoring

- Programming team look for possible software improvements and make these improvements even where there is no immediate need for them.
- This improves the understandability of the software and so reduces the need for documentation.
- Changes are easier to make because the code is well-structured and clear.
- However, some changes requires architecture refactoring and this is much more expensive.
- Example: Tidying up and renaming attributes and methods to make them easier to understand.

Test-first development

- Writing tests before code clarifies the requirements to be implemented.
- Tests are written as programs rather than data so that they can be executed automatically. The test includes a check that it has executed correctly.
 - Usually relies on a testing framework such as Junit.
- All previous and new tests are run automatically when new functionality is added, thus checking that the new functionality has not introduced errors.

Pair programming

- In XP, programmers work in pairs, sitting together to develop code.
- This helps develop common ownership of code and spreads knowledge across the team.
- It serves as an informal review process as each line of code is looked at by more than 1 person.
- It encourages refactoring as the whole team can benefit from this.
- Measurements suggest that development productivity with pair programming is similar to that of two people working independently.
- In pair programming, programmers sit together at the same workstation to develop the software.
- Pairs are created dynamically so that all team members work with each other during the development process.
- The sharing of knowledge that happens during pair programming is very important as it reduces the overall risks to a project when team members leave.
- Pair programming is not necessarily inefficient and there is evidence that a pair working together is more efficient than 2 programmers working separately.

Advantages of pair programming

- It supports the idea of collective ownership and responsibility for the system.
 - Individuals are not held responsible for problems with the code. Instead, the team has collective responsibility for resolving these problems.
- It acts as an informal review process because each line of code is looked at by at least two people.
- It helps support refactoring, which is a process of software improvement.
 - Where pair programming and collective ownership are used, others benefit immediately from the refactoring so they are likely to support the process.

Thank You!