Jacob Steckel

CSC402

Spring 2018

Article Review #4

Scaling Agile

This article is about how researchers are looking to find a way to improve work processes by using agile software-development security models. The model would be used by a team so they can observe what they are currently doing and help guide them to maturity. To find out how teams could use a maturity model to improve, researchers analyzed nine teams’ evolution of practices and found that the process was a peculiar way of going about things. Each team faced different challenges and circumstances so they evolved in different ways depending on their situation. The researchers used this information to design the Agile Compass, a checklist that shows teams where they are on their road to reaching agile maturity.

Next, the road to maturity is described, including the possible outcomes that may come about. The first outcome is ‘practice learning’, which includes the learning outcomes that teams pursue when they alter their methods based on their specific challenges. ‘Team conduct’ describes how the team evolves along with the central role in agile maturity. ‘Pace of deliveries’ shows the delivery-related goals that the team reaches while evolution is occurring. ‘Features disclosure’ shows the dynamics of software requirements and how they alter throughout the process. ‘Software product’ shows how the team’s software developed regarding quality. ‘Customer relationship’ shows the team’s relationship with the customer and how it changed throughout the process. ‘Organizational support’ describes the change in organizational support for agile development during the maturity process.

The article also goes over the actual research that they did on agile maturity. They had companies that were named A-G and jotted down how many teams were included in each company. Team sizes varied from five to twenty teams. Company size was also included in the research and that varied from 17 employees to 15,000 employees. Lastly, they noted the years that the company has been adopting agile development and the purpose for developing software. The length of time that companies had been using agile development varied from 0.4 years to 6 years.

Lastly, the article concludes the outcomes regarding the agile compass. The compass briefly describes the outcomes in the agile development process and helps to offer ways to identify whether something was accomplished. The purpose of the agile compass wasn’t to give a final, definitive picture of team’s progress towards maturity since the team’s situation will constantly change over time. As the business environment changes, management must choose to evaluate their situations and make the necessary adjustments to maximize overall improvement. This article was an enjoyable read because I learned a lot about agile maturity and it was interesting to see the layout of how they performed their research and came to a conclusion.