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SSW555 Homework 12

I pledge my honor that I have abided by the Stevens Honor System.

1. Spotify has demonstrated that their approach to the software development lifecycle process has been very successful. The Spotify method is more advantageous for a company like Driverless Cars because it encourages better performance via the high autonomy and high alignment attitude. Having a motivating environment for work, like the work environment at Spotify, leads to employees feeling more satisfied and happier at work. Another advantage of the Spotify approach is the end-to-end responsibility of squads, which might result in more accountability for each feature in Driverless Cars.   
    One disadvantage of the Spotify practice is how the release train allows for unfinished features to be released. In a driverless vehicle, it isn’t always necessarily feasible that the unfinished work can be hidden. Another disadvantage is that the concept of standardization is confusing in the Spotify approach. If users are on slightly different versions of a software via the limited blast radius approach, it can be hard to determine what version numbers exist or are in use with consumers. Also, the small weekly releases that Spotify performs would be very expensive in Driverless Cars.
2. Feature Driven Development would be the best Agile method for Driverless Cars to employ. In Feature Driven Development(FDD), the customer’s requirements and priorities are obtained very early. FDD allows for customer feedback later in its process, but having the requirements early enough allows for the team to have guidance on what direction to take from the start. The five processes of FDD allow for a clear outline of the architecture and design creation and maintenance of the entire project. A model is created for the project, then the feature list is assembled. Implementation occurs after the class owners inspect and unit test their code, and before pushing it to the build under supervision of the Chief Programmer. Support for the code is maintained via configuration management, requirements documents, test cases, and a versioning method.

This process is more structured than the Spotify method. The initial modeling allows for more accurate requirements to be decided upon and an overall better plan for the project. Having progress tracking and reporting in FDD helps answer questions from outsiders. The feature list in FDD is catered more toward the project’s needs whereas the Spotify feature list plays toward the needs of the company. With a project as important as Driverless Cars, I think the company would benefit from employing the FDD method.