

Creating software products is challenging.

First you have to decide what to build; then you have to get your team to build those features without making too many mistakes.

Yet we're human, and mistakes do happen:

- Misunderstood requirements waste time: features that don't behave the way you
 wanted have to be reworked.
- **Defects cause delays:** poor build quality delays the launch of new features and irritates customers.
- Schedule slips damage your reputation: when you need to hold back a release for rework, your customers and stakeholders are disappointed.

Mistakes like these waste time and money, damage morale and reputation, and cause your team to lose focus on what's really important.

Many teams using and Scrum and other agile methodologies still suffer these problems. It doesn't have to be this way.

There is a better way to develop software: one which helps your product and technology specialists to clearly understand one another; that breaks work down into small, focussed chunks; that imbues the software with automated tests that guarantee your product stays free of defects.

Behaviour-Driven Development rises to that challenge.

This approach is called Behaviour-Driven Development (BDD). BDD enhances the performance of agile teams by taking their collaboration to a new level.

Some of the benefits that BDD provides to software teams are:

Focused communication: good conversations are the fuel that powers a software team. BDD gives you a framework for having the right conversations at the right time, avoiding rambling specification meetings that go on forever.

Shared understanding: by making a deliberate effort to explore requirements collaboratively, everyone on the team becomes a domain expert.

Smooth, predicable pace: with the skills to quickly break down any requirement into small pieces of work, your team can reliably predict and meet their delivery schedules.

Enhanced build quality: automated testing cycles are built into the heart of BDD, stopping defects before they leave developers' desks.

Living documentation: when documentation and tests merge into one, the team produce system documentation that's guaranteed to be accurate.

All in all, BDD teams are more productive and more predictable.