

Vanderjack, B. (2015). Chapter 5: A Look at Risk from Classical Project Management

Main Idea:

Vanderjack, speaking as an Agile coach, urges Agile practitioners not to assume Scrum alone “takes care of risk.” He explains that **formal risk management from classical project management has value in Agile** contexts.

Key Concepts:

- **Risk Definition:** Difference between expectation and reality—positive or negative.
- **Risk Register:** Central place to store all risks and related data (akin to classical PM).
- **Benefits of Managing Risk:**
 - Preparedness.
 - Formal evidence if projects go wrong.
 - Improved critical thinking and collaboration.

Vanderjack's Risk Process:

- Inputs
 - User Stories
 - Past project history
 - Team's intuition
- Techniques:
 - Brainstorming.
 - Infrastructure examination (e.g. architecture, security).
 - Modified fishbone diagrams for root cause analysis.
- Metadata captured for each risk:
 - Impact and probability (scored 1-5).
 - Priority (impact × probability).
 - Ownership and response strategies:
 - Avoid
 - Transfer
 - Accept
 - Mitigate
 - Trigger events, warning signs, monitoring strategies.

Interesting Points:

- Uses humorous real-world analogies (like drilling into electrical wires) to illustrate risk processes.

- Emphasizes that **risk handling decisions should connect directly to specific User Stories** in Agile.
- Encourages documenting not just technical solutions but stakeholder communication plans.

Application:

Highly practical for SDM404 or SEP401, offering a bridge between Agile philosophy and classical risk rigor