Agile Teams and Design Importance

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ABSTRACT

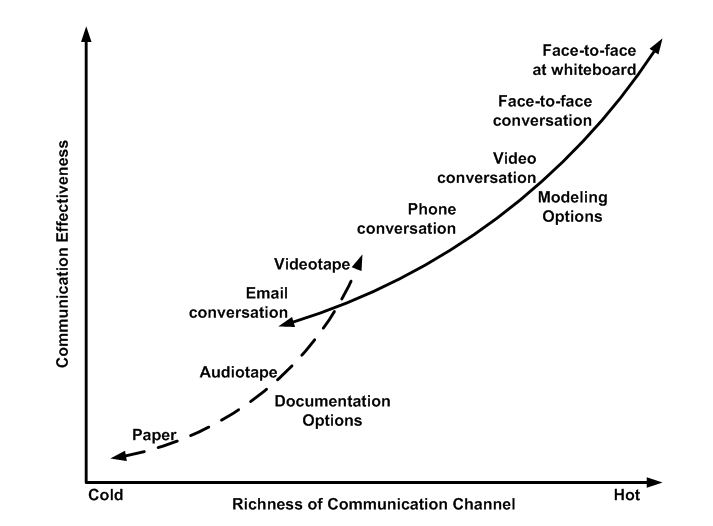
In this paper we discuss the importance of communication amongst two or more agile teams corresponding to the same project. Where communication is given a higher priority over documentation in agile methodologies. For people face-to-face communication and documentation goes hand in hand. Communication is the vital source in exchange of information between people that maybe within a team or between two or more agile teams. That is between developers and end users or developers and database team and management team. With strong agile architecture and proper communcation that supports the DevOps mindset, which allows the system to continuously evolve over periods of time while supporting the users using the system currently.

KEYWORDS

Agile, Design, conversation, communication.

1 Agile Teams Communication

In Agile, Software Development provides various methods and modes of communication between the team, people can choose any mode of communication when working together depending on the results produced by the mode of communication and richness of the channel used by people. The two arcs are fascinating, the left-most one listing communications options for when you are documenting and the other communication options for when you are modeling. These relative values of these options are situational dependent: sometimes video conversation is called as video conferencing which is better and produce more results than a face-to-face conversation.



If the conversation involves a shared medium such as Paper, index cards or white board then person-to-person, face-to-face conversation yields better results

Sometimes by removing the shared medium or by no longer being face-to-face you experience some less effectiveness in communication. As the richness of your communication channel

gives the benefit of loosing the physical proximity and some clues that proximity provides. You also lose the benefit of multiple modalities such as the ability to communicate through techniques other than words such as gestures and facial expressions. People usually communicate with the tone of the words which will change the meaning of what they say. We will lose this advantage of the communication which may lead drop in the effectiveness of communication. Cockburn points out that a speaker may highlight what they are saying, thus changing the way they are communicating, by speeding up, slowing down, pausing, or changing tones. Finally, the ability to ask questions and answer them in real time will be lost, asking questions will always lead to better understanding and sometimes it may lead to the foundation of new ideas. This mode provides a proof of what is understood by the listener.

Implications of Figure 1:

1. **Strive to follow the most effective communication technique applicable to your situation**. If you are working together in a same location where you can be easily commuted or located in the same room, building it is always better to have a face-to-face conversation with paper and whiteboard which gives the best and effective results. If that is not the case the only way we have is to make up with a video conference and share media such as online word document. Travelling to them periodically would be a great idea to see the progress of the project and communication. See Figure 2 and the article Choose the Right Communication Technique for more thoughts.
2. **Be prepared to vary your approach throughout a project**. Team dynamics will change throughout a project, so the method of communication you used earlier might not give you the same results today. For instance, the daily progress meeting which you did at the beginning of the project may no longer be needed because you have better modes of communication with less cost and better richness in the mode of communication. The goal is that you should regularly ask yourselves that whatever you are following to communicate gives you the best result or is there any other mode that gives you better results. This should be followed for every iteration of the project.

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