

COMP47480 Lab Journal

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Practical 1

This practical acted as a general introduction to agile development and to the module as a whole. It consisted of humorous skit based around a team of agile developers who have not been following best practices and who's project is in disarray. A clip of Hitler in his bunker as Berlin falls from the movie Downfall was used, with the English subtitles replaced with the skits script. Our assignment was to pick out any terms related to development methodologies or software engineering as a whole, give the context for them in the skit and describe them in our own words.

The terms mentioned largely consisted of terms I was familiar with, meaning I could follow the narrative of the clip and understand the humour on my first viewing. That being said there were still several terms I was not familiar with and then still, of the words I was familiar with I was forced at times to look up a formal definition in order to describe them properly, which broadened my understanding of the terms.

Terms such as code coverage and test driven development are commonly found in the course, although without any experience on an agile team, terms like carryover stories and iterations are not terms I would have come across. Although terms like iterations and check-ins, while I may or may not have been able to define them on their own, in context they are easily understood and are similar in definition to and seem to occasionally be used interchangeably with words I was familiar with, i.e. cycles and stand-ups.

On the other hand there were terms used that I couldn't come up with a definition, even in context. For instance burndown charts and funnily enough, mock objects. Despite the fact that I have used mock objects when testing in the past, I wasn't familiar with the word. Maybe I once was familiar with the term from a past module, but not anymore. Unlike a mock object, I can say for certain that I had not come across a burndown chart until this practical.

In conclusion, it is nice to have a practical that clues us into the terminology we can expect to hear throughout the module. All too often can an in class explanation become inaccessible as a result of the use of jargon associated with the specific field the class is based around.