AGILE EXPLORERS

Exploring Agility in the Enterprise

Scaled Agile Framework 4.0

SAFe 4.0 is scheduled to be released at this year's Agile Alliance conference (Aug 3-7).

Initial thoughts were that even though it would be a point release, the overall changes would be minimal. Since 'responding to change over following a plan' is a value from the Agile Manifesto - let's start with smaller items and end with the biggest change:
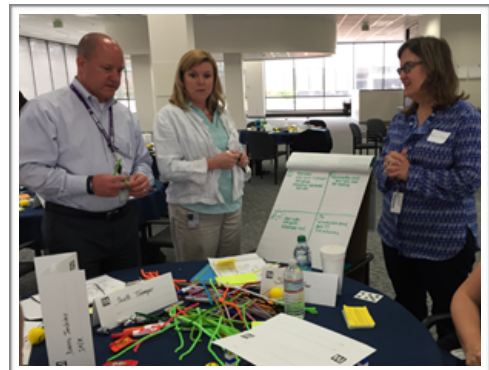
1) Kanban at the team level: During the previous training, the Agile Program augmented the SAFe materials due to this recognized gap. With the release of 4.0, Kanban will be fully integrated into the team-level training.

2) SAFe Lean/Agile Principles: Many of these will be familiar since they originate from the Principles of Product Development Flow that was in the training previously. The updates now reflect a more complete set of principles and integration with the framework.

3) SAFe Lean System Engineering (LSE): In response to large system builders (think GPS satellites with ground stations), Scaled Agile began the development of a complementary framework (LSE). After receiving feedback from the first class, LSE will be incorporated into SAFe. It will also more fully recognize the integration that many of our systems have with external vendors.

...Notes from the Field...

This is an long overdue update and much has transpired since the last issue. Solely from a training/education perspective, 3 ScrumXP (ESD: HR & Accounting Solutions, Enterprise Collaboration Solutions / Software Architecture & Integration, and Enterprise Projects & Support), 1 Product Owner (HR & Accounting business partners), 1 Leading SAFe and 2 Agile 101 sessions (IT and business partners) have been conducted.

The pictures you see above and to the right are from the Product Owner class for HR & Accounting Solutions' business partners. To better appreciate the flow of Scrum ceremonies, the business partners were asked to identify a

Product Owner, Scrum Master and Team Members in an effort to work through several Sprints. During their Sprints, they were
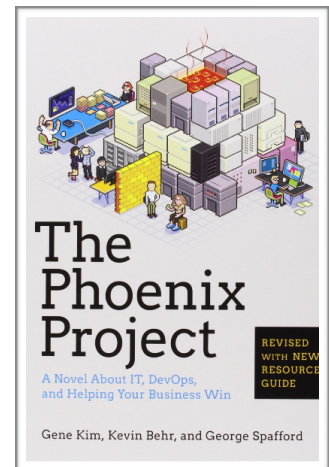
Continued: Notes From The Field

asked to incrementally build an animal and a garage with LEGOS. There was high level of engagement that included one group filming a video-based user manual on how to use the garage and one team 'borrowing' another team's animal thus prompting a LEGO security guard to watch over the premises. Even though this exercise could be viewed as a simple game, it prompted everyone to reflect more on the importance of each Scrum role/ceremony and ask more questions for a deeper level of understanding.
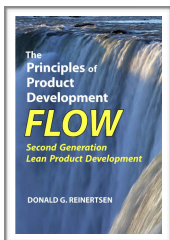
Book Review

As part of their continuous learning journey, the Enterprise Customer Operations (ECO) / Infrastructure Delivery (ID) management team has started reading two books, with one, *The Phoenix Project: A Novel about IT, DevOps, and Helping Your Business Win* already under their belts. As the title notes, it is written as a novel that has this as the opening setting:

"Bill is an IT manager at Parts Unlimited. It's Tuesday morning and on his drive into the office, Bill gets a call from the CEO. The company's new IT initiative, code named Phoenix Project, is critical to the future of Parts Unlimited, but the project is massively over budget and very late. The CEO wants Bill to report directly to him and fix the mess in ninety days or else Bill's entire department will be outsourced."

For the book review, each member of the ECO/ID management team selected a character to represent. To assist getting in character, name tags were created and VooDoo Donuts were provided since they were a key prop in the book (donuts from Julie Darlings were surreptitiously substituted). Each team member described the struggles of their character and what the character learned (or didn't) during the course of the story along with their own key takeaway. Consensus was the book was enlightening, valuable for others to read and underlined the importance of collaboration to ensure business success.

Next on the reading list is *The Principles of Product Development Flow: Second Generation Lean Product Development*. The author "starts with the ideas of lean manufacturing but goes far beyond them, drawing upon ideas from telecommunications networks, transportation systems, computer operating systems and military doctrine." Team members have paired up and will be teaching each other the material from a selected chapter. Unfortunately, donuts are never mentioned in this book.

If you would like to conduct a book review for your group, just contact Tony Harper (trharper@tva.gov).

More Agile Methods Program Updates

As it has been a year since the Agile Methods Program got underway , it is an opportune time to reflect and assess how we've done and how to improve. A survey is being constructed to send out, but to avoid the TVA-wide survey beginning on June 8, expect one for the program in July. Feedback is always welcome without a survey, stop by SP5S or trharper@tva.gov.

Where are the Agile Release Trains (ARTs)? There has been much discussion on how best to integrate SAFe within TVA. During conversations in February with the IT SLT, it was determined to focus on the team level activities. As planning and scheduling for FY16 projects (and routine work) is ramping up, sequencing and coordinating work with ARTs will be an available option to pursue.

Conceptual workspace designs for Signal Place 3 mentioned in the last newsletter have been approved to move forward. Feedback on final details are still being received and reviewed for incorporation. Expected completion is in the September/October timeframe.

The Agile Explorer Library branch in Chattanooga recently moved to MP1 while the Knoxville branch is still located on WT 5A in cube 304. Additional books will be available in both locations over the next two weeks. Some of those are noted below.
- Coaching Agile Teams
- Lean Customer Development
- Getting Value out of Agile Retrospectives
- Agile Project Management

Note: If you have an Agile Explorer Library book and you are not actively reading, please return it for others to enjoy. If you want a copy for your permanent reference, just let me know and I'll order a replacement for the library.

Getting Out of the Office

Fortunately and unfortunately there doesn't seem to be a lack of activities related to technology vying for your attention these days. Find your passion and start participating....now, if I could pick only one....

Knoxville:
- CodeStock Conference: July 10/11, Knoxville Convention Center, $125
- Data Science: June 18th, Carolina Ale House
- Ruby On Rails: in July, Knoxville Entrepreneur Center (KEC)
- Virtual and Augmented Reality: KEC (expected in July)

Nashville: unified calendar

Chattanooga:

- SQL Saturday Conference: July 27 - FREE! (led by our own Larry Ortega & Srinivas Kommini)
- CHadoop: 2nd Thursday, Society of Work [SoW] (led by our own Joe France)
- Data Science: 2nd Tuesday, (led by a familiar Sandra Kilpatrick)
- Developer Lunch: every Thursday, SoW
- Chattanooga DevOps: 3rd Tuesday, SoW
- Carbon Five Hack Night: June 10, repeats every two weeks, Society of Work
- Even more here...