

# The software development process

## A personal view

Robert Brady

`robert.brady@cl.cam.ac.uk`

May 2017

# Program size

Approx Size	Description	Approx date
1kb	Punch-card program	1965
2kb-10kb	Computer Science project	
16kb	Operating system of Sinclair Spectrum	1982
18 Mb	Human Genome – protein coding	
20Mb	Our trading system	1996
500Mb	Windows (50 Mlines)	2015
20Gb	Google (2 Glines)	2015
300Gb	Storage on my laptop	

Complex, vast number of 'corner cases'

# Recruiting great developers

## 'Just recruit great developers'

- They are 10-50 times more productive than ordinary developers
- who are 10-50 times more productive than poor developers
- Self-starters: artists who don't want or need managing
- Most of you

## For a growing company, great developers...

- Do not exist in sufficient numbers
- Progress to more important things (sales, CEO)

## So this is for the rest of us...

# What management can do

Tell developers what you want them to do, measure their performance

- Ordinary software companies do this
- Turns great developers into ordinary ones
- Lose a factor of 10-50 productivity

Supply infrastructure for developers to succeed, and trust them

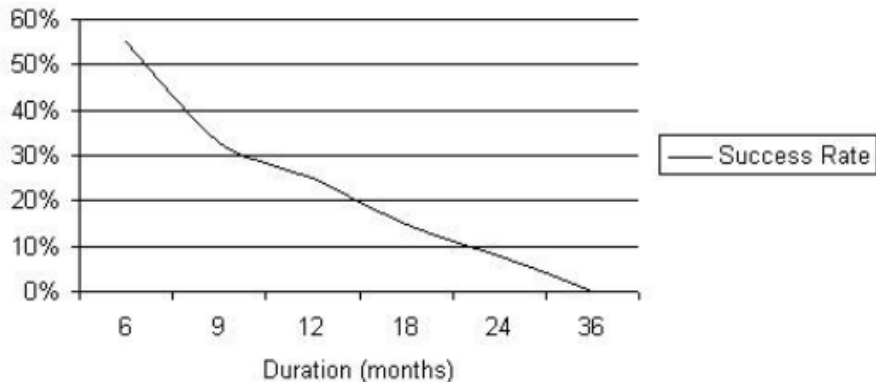
- Communicate the problem – eg we really want to land customer A
- Cut out the middle-man – eg onsite customer experience
- Autonomy – eg work on what you want 20% of your time
- Recognition – eg 'brown bag' talks
- Creates great developers

Not limited to developers

- Literature on "Theory X-Theory Y" management culture

# Statistics (1)

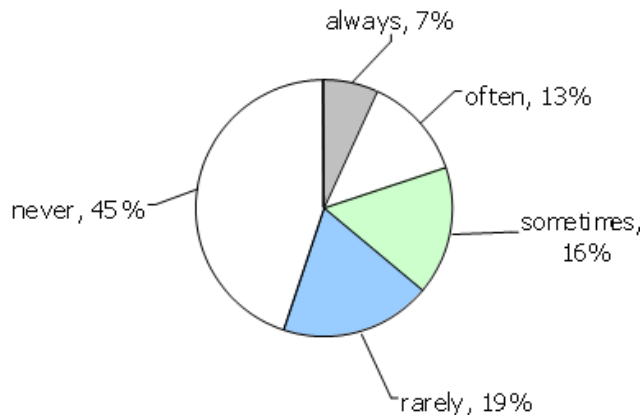
## Success rate of projects (Johnson 1998)



Break up large projects up into shorter ones (weeks not months)

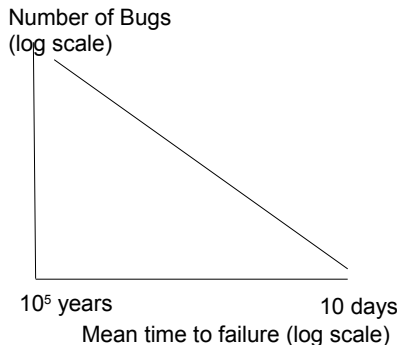
## Statistics (2)

### Actual use of requested features (Johnson 2002)



Ship frequently. It is the only way to stop wasting effort.

# Statistics (3)



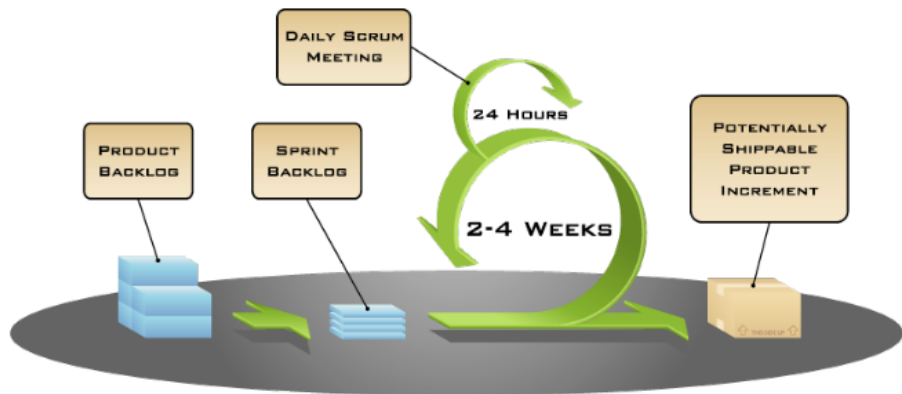
Adams E. N., Optimising preventive maintenance of software products, IBM Journal of Research & Development, Vol. 28, issue 1 pp 2-14 (1984)

Hard-to-find bugs really matter

Period	average	bugs	mttf
10-20d	15d	1	15d
20-40d	30d	2	15d
40-80d	60d	4	15d
80-160d	120d	8	15d
...Etc.			

Run automated tests every day

# Short development cycles or 'sprints'

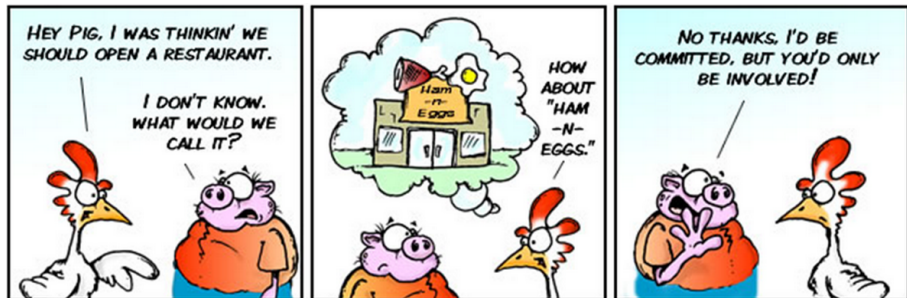


Most people use Jira by Atlassian (equivalent of Salesforce)

- Everything you need
- Integrated customer site
- Statistics for team motivation and feedback



# Agile Commitment model



By Clark & Vizdos

© 2006 implementingagile.com

# How a sprint works

## Team members ('pigs') commit at the beginning of a sprint

- Scheduling meeting with 'chickens' (sales, management ...)

## Chickens refrain from interfering during sprint

- Unplanned changes reduce efficiency and motivation
- Customers don't deploy fixes in less than 2 weeks anyway

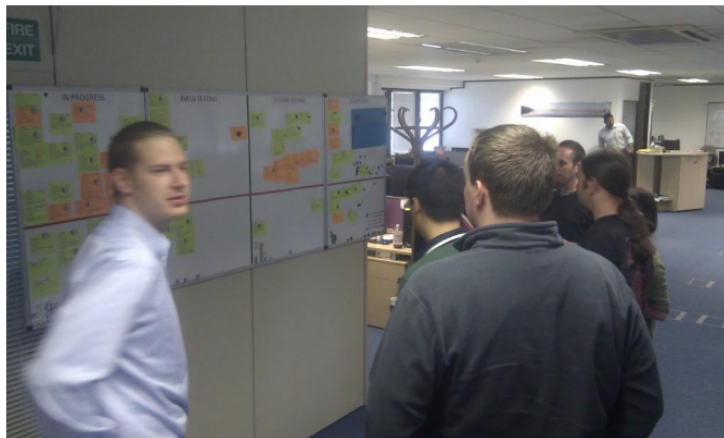
## Scrum master fixes problems

- My computer doesn't work
- The customer didn't answer my question

## Team succeeds, not individuals

- eg, John hasn't finished testing, Fred will help
- Fred gains cudos with peers
- **Part 1B project is run this way**

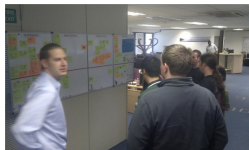
# Daily scrum meeting



Old picture – now cluster around a Jira screen

# Daily scrum meeting

- Daily
- 15-minutes
- Stand-up



## Co-ordination, not problem solving

- Whole world is invited
- Only 'pigs' may talk
  - team members
  - Scrum master
  - product owner
- Helps avoid other unnecessary meetings

# There is an 'I' in team

## Developers at customer site

- Transforms understanding and motivation
- Fixes things at the airport on the way back

## Developers have 20% own time

- Gives a 'Brown bag' talk on what he did
- Enables large organizations to innovate

# Test-oriented development – example

```
Class MyClass
```

```
int Square(int a) {  
    return a**2  
    (return a*a in v.2)  
}
```

```
Test() {  
    assert Square(0) = 0  
    assert Square(-5) = 25  
    assert Square(5) = 25  
}
```

Some environments run the tests every time you check in

Test manager's job – "prove to me that your change works"

# Automated tests

## Report a bug

- Write a test script
- Run it with each daily build (it fails!)
- Make it work and you are done
- Run the tests automatically with each daily build
  - Find out when someone else breaks your feature
  - May find regression problems unrelated to your feature
  - Refactor safely

## New features

- User stories from the customer
- Write the tests based on the user stories (check with user!)
- Make it work and you are done
- Run the tests automatically with each daily build