

Agile Elevates the Role of the Tester

David Grabel
Grabel Consulting Services
March, 2014

Poll - Primary role

- Manual SW QA
- Automated SW QA
- Project Manager/Scrum Master
- SW Developer
- Business Analyst
- Manager
- Other?

Poll - Methodology

- Lean or Agile
- Waterfall
- RUP
- None
- Other

Who I am

- Husband & father
- Independent Agile Coach
- CSM, SPC
- President, Agile New England (non-profit, volunteer organization)
- Contact info:
dgrabel@acm.org

How I Got Here

- BA in Applied Math – Columbia
- MS in Applied Math & CS – Harvard
- Started as a developer – CAD/CAM, Computer Graphics, Engineering Workstations
- Manager, Director, VP in 5 startups & 3 large companies
- Learned Agile from Jeff Sutherland, Ken Schwaber, Lyssa Adkins, and others
- Scrum Master, Product Owner, Internal Coach

How QA Engineers See Me



Testing Profession – Challenges

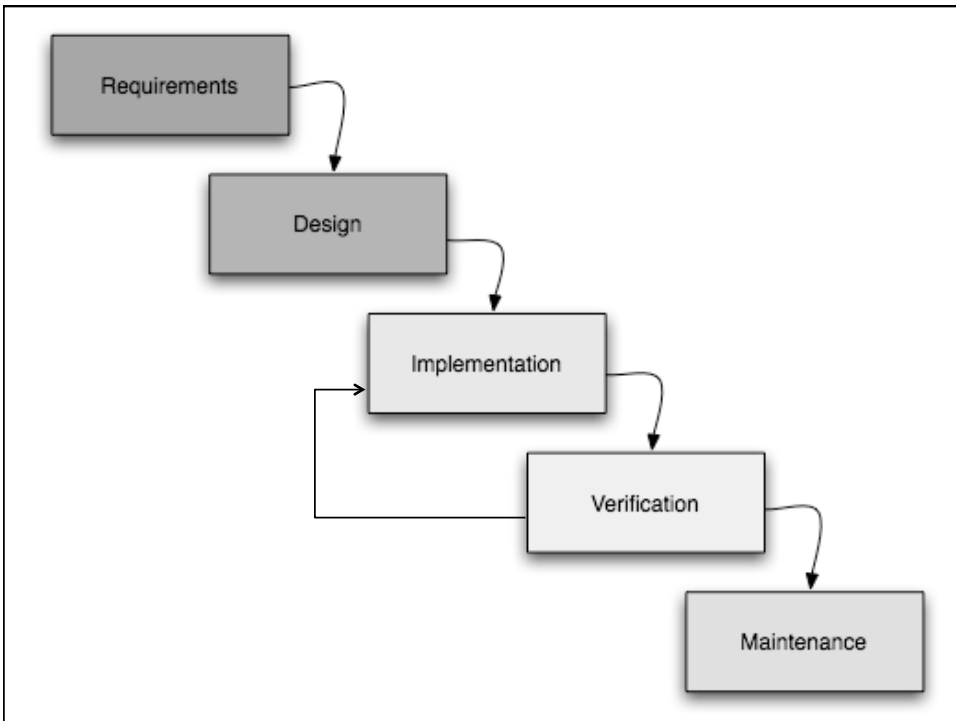
- Developers creating software that works
- XP practices are mainstream
 - Code reviews
 - TDD – automated unit testing
 - BDD – automated functional testing
 - Pair programming
 - Continuous integration
- Edge cases are in scope for development

History

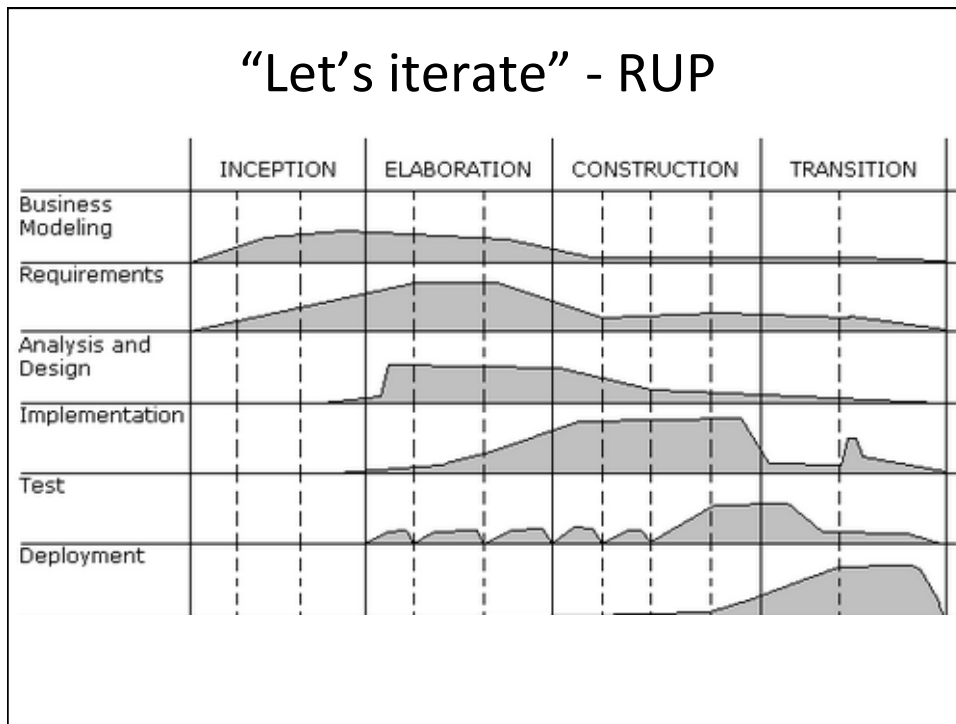
“In the beginning” ... Chaos



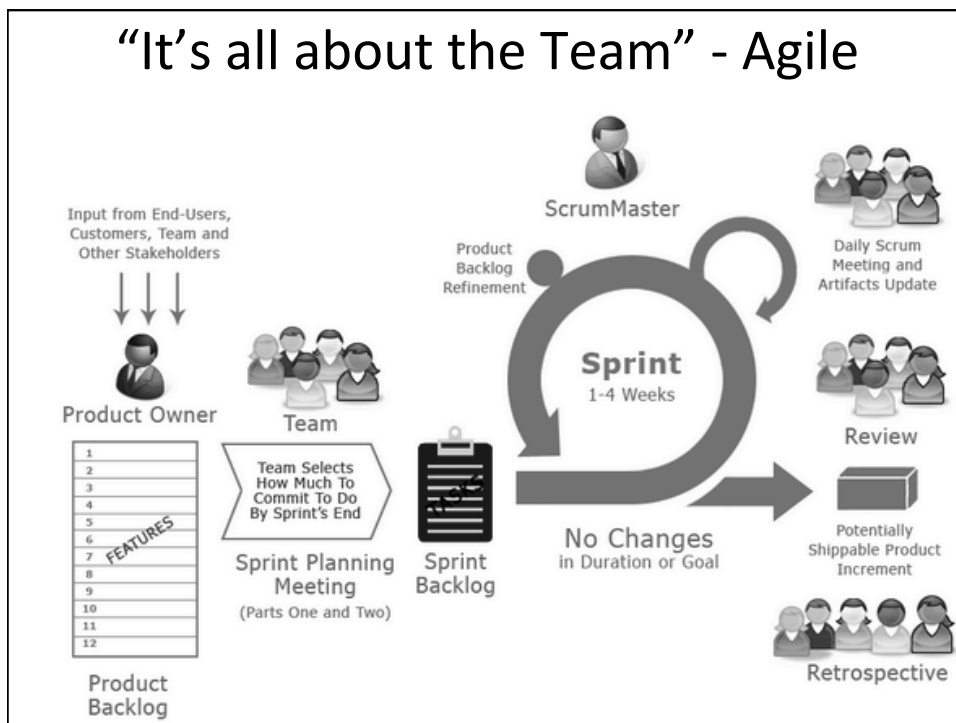
“Let there be light” - Waterfall

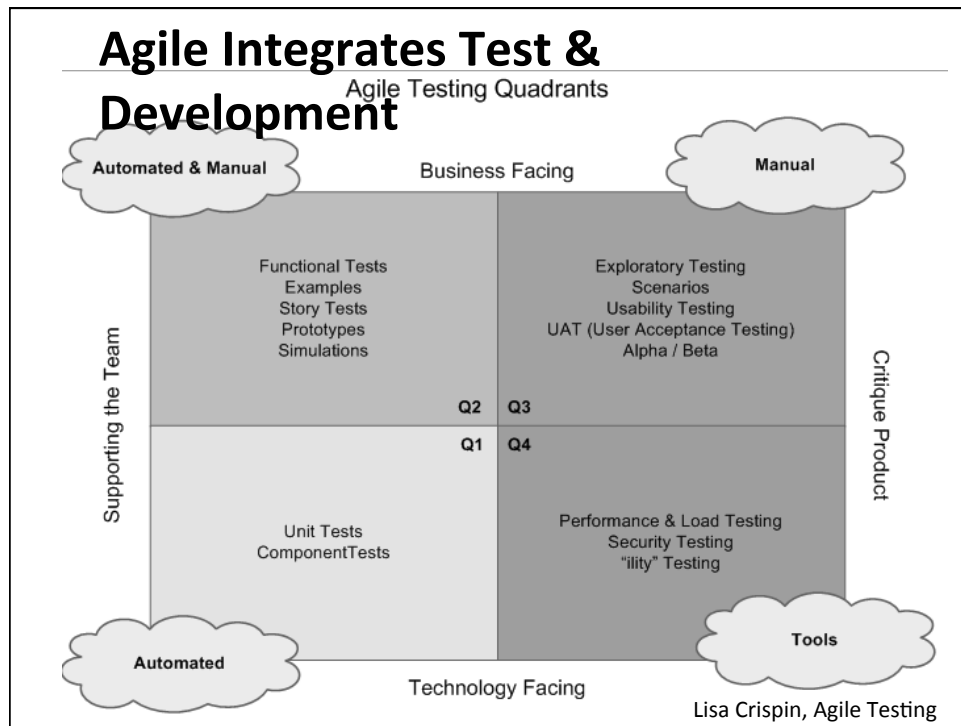


“Let’s iterate” - RUP



“It’s all about the Team” - Agile





What is the most important purpose of SW test in your company?

- **Inspection**

- Inspection is not a value added function
- Value is added by requirements and code

What can testers do when developers deliver code that works?

- All those things you don't have time for because you file all those bug reports
- Test is still part of the process - measure the process, not just the product
- Move up the technology curve – load, performance, security
- But, this is still inspection

What should testers do when developers deliver code that works?

- Apply QA Mindset ...
 - Attention to Detail
 - Think like a naïve user
 - Think like a hacker
- High value added activities
- Agile enables through cross functional team and a focus on creating potentially shippable items every iteration.

Product Definition

- Acceptance Criteria, collaborate with the Product Owner
 - Given/When/Then exercise
 - Break into groups of 4
 - Start with a User Story (handouts)
 - “As a <role>, I need to ..., so that ...
 - Acceptance criteria – tests from the business perspective.
 - Given <condition>, When <action>, Then <result>

Value Added

- Acceptance criteria informed by QA mindset
 - More thorough
 - More meaningful (meatier)
- Easy to automate
- Executable specification
- High level regression suite before any code has been written

Constructing Code

- Coding
 - Pair with developers
 - Suggest test cases as they code
 - Educate them about things users do
- Behavior Driven Development
 - Provide automated test cases (DSL, cucumber, ...) before the code is written
 - Limit code written – teach developer how to avoid code not needed

Increase Developer Efficiency

- Functional test automation –
 - Enables safe refactoring
 - Not just detect regressions (far less likely with CI and automated testing)
- Create automated functional test for every defect
- Usability testing – drive quality into the user experience in the current sprint

Deep Agile:

November 23 - 24, 2013



Creating a Culture of Quality

Cambridge, MA

- Break down the silos
- See: Quality is a team sport - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OABc7BsN1fM&feature=youtu.be>

Don't Be Afraid

- Increase your “value add” – elevate your role!

Contact Info

- David Grabel
- Grabel Consulting Services

- Email: dgrabel@acm.org
- LinkedIn