



Atlanta SPIN

Software Process Improvement Network



Nelson Perez

The Atlanta SPINaker

November 2007 Volume 2, Issue 11

Applying Agile Techniques to Agile Development - Lessons Learned

Our speaker for October was Mr. Nelson Perez, President and Principal consultant of Sierra's Edge, Inc. His talk was on "Applying Agile Techniques to Process Development" to an audience of over thirty eager Atlanta process professionals. This presentation brought together Agile practices and CMMI model in an interesting blend.

Nelson started by explaining the genesis of the presentation. It covered an actual project that he worked on. In a competitive bid situation, Nelson experienced some real life problems: cut the price while holding the delivery time constant and increasing scope.

Nelson reviewed the principles of Agile development and proceeded to further explain them in more detail with some examples to bring the points home. This was followed by some exploration of process development techniques including process descriptions, and some tools such as IBM's ETVX method.

As the project developed, there was an increasing influence of CMMI practices felt

in the project. This was necessary because the client's intent was to have a CMMI appraisal done on the project and processes developed to execute it.

Rollout management became a crucial aspect of the success of the project. Nelson stressed several strategies including re-planning as necessary, mentoring and leading by example, monitoring and managing the rollout at all levels. Several cases were presented graphically showing varying degrees of rollout success.

Nelson continued with some discussion of mapping CMMI processes to the processes used in this project. He briefly discussed the two representations of the CMMI model: continuous and staged. Nelson prefers to work with the continuous representation because of its flexibility in improving the specific process areas used in the project. Nelson also stressed the need for having a strong champion for the project.

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WIN !!

A 2008 SEI Individual Membership, valued at \$350 bucks.

At the close of our December 12th meeting there will be a drawing to determine a winner. To be entered in the drawing, become a **contributing member** between now and up to the time of the drawing. If you are already a contributing member, renew and we'll add the additional year to your contributing member status. You need not be present to win, *but it would be a whole bunch cooler if you were.*

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Next Meeting: November 14, 2007

Agile Methods and Other Fairy Tales

Presented by David Longstreet

Time: 6:00 PM—8:30 PM

Location: La Quinta Inn & Suites Atlanta Perimeter Medical

6260 Peachtree Dunwoody, Atlanta, GA 30328

Applying Agile Techniques - Continued

As stated earlier, the presentation was based on a real life project. Additionally, it yielded a large number of lessons learned. The presentation was originally designed to be two hours long. The first half was presented at the October meeting. We were faced with the challenge of bringing the second half of the presentation to our audience at another time. After some discussion, the group felt that holding a webinar on a Friday during the lunch hour would give them the most flexibility in listening to on the balance of the presentation.

In keeping with Atlanta SPIN's interest in exploring new and different technologies to bring the best presentations to our members, the balance of this presentation was delivered on November 2 from noon to 1:00 PM. The visual presentation was done with the on-line presentation tool GoToMeeting. The audio portion was delivered using FreeConferenceCall. Connection information was delivered to all Atlanta SPIN members via email and on the web site. Nine SPIN members participated in the presentation. The audio portion was recorded and will be made available through the web site for anyone who is not able to participate in the presentation on

Feedback from the Appraiser's & Trainer's Conference By: Bruce Duncil, SEI Authorized SCAMPI Lead Appraiser

Carnegie Mellon University's Software Engineering Institute (SEI) conducted the 5th Annual CMMI Workshop for SCAMPI Lead Appraisers and CMMI Instructors in St. Louis, October 15-18, 2007. The workshop provided an opportunity to learn of future planned SEI activities. Approximately 500 individuals from a score of countries are estimated to have attended. Since release of CMMI-DEV v1.2 in August 2006, there have been many changes at SEI. Two of those changes took center stage at the workshop.

In recognition that SEI now considers the role of SCAMPI lead appraiser as a profession, a SCAMPI Lead Appraiser Body of Knowledge (SLA BOK) has just been released. While SEI has always "authorized" individuals to lead formal appraisals, SEI plans in 2008 call for "certifying" all currently authorized as well as candidate lead appraisers to the SLA BOK. This will be in addition to the separate SEI "certification" which began in 2007 that individuals must hold to lead high maturity appraisals.

SEI policy issued earlier this year stated that they must formally accept every appraisal result before the appraisal rating can be officially recognized. Another policy change was announced at the meeting. Effective immediately, SEI is requiring that appraisal planning data be entered into their on-line reporting system at least 30 days prior to the appraisal on-

site period. This is typically transparent to the organization being appraised but can be expected to allow SEI to now schedule random observations of more appraisals in progress and/or to actively audit more appraisal results prior to SEI formal acceptance.

Recent years have seen significant increase in the number of organizations being rated CMMI Maturity Level 5. Since release of the new CMMI version, some appraisal rating results have been called into question. As a result, SEI is now actively auditing every high maturity (CMMI Level 4/5) appraisal. Nearly an entire day of the workshop was devoted to presentations addressing how SEI is now interpreting CMMI Maturity Level 4 and 5 goals and practices.

Changes to the CMMI model and SEI training, and perhaps to the SCAMPI appraisal method, may also be forthcoming to better support the community's pursuit of high maturity process performance and improvement.

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SM - CMM Integration, SCAMPI, and IDEAL are service marks of Carnegie Mellon University.

Update from the October 24 ISO 20000 Workshop

By Abi Salimi

On October 24th, John DiMaria, the BSI (British Standards Institution) Americas Product Manager of Business Continuity offered an ISO 20000 workshop in a special session of the Atlanta SPIN. There were lively discussions and questions and answers during this workshop.

ISO20000 is the international standard for IT Service Management. Published in 2005, ISO20000 is based on ITIL and Gartner predicts that by 2008, ISO 20000 certification will be a requirement in at least 60% of relevant public-sector and 30% of relevant private-sector RFPs.

John described the evolution of the ISO 20000 standard; its processes, business drivers and impacts on the organizations; its relationship to ITIL V3; the standard's implementation steps; ROIs as a result of its implementation, and examples of companies such as Northrop Grumman and Samsung which have benefited from the implementation of this standard.



John DiMaria

Spotlight on Sponsors: AMERICAN SYSTEMS



Our world-class service delivery methodology allows us to implement best practice models, methods and tools, including: **CMMI, ISO, ITIL, ASQ, CMII, PSM, 6-sigma, Lean, Agile, CoBIT, PMI**, and others.

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Contributor to this issue:

- Abi Salimi
- Bruce Duncil

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Process Improvement Sites:**Software Engineering Information Repository**

<http://seir.sei.cmu.edu>, has over 30,000 registered users and is a forum used to contribute and exchange information about software engineering improvement activities, including CMMI.

The CMMI Process Improvement Yahoo! discussion group

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cmmi_process_improvement/ is a forum used to contribute and exchange ideas about CMMI-based improvement.

BSCW Shared Workspace <https://bscw.sei.cmu.edu/pub/bscw.cgi/0/79783> is a forum used to contribute and exchange CMMI-related materials.

Information courtesy of SEI Customer Relations. Find out more about SEI Membership online at

www.sei.cmu.edu/membership
customer-relations@sei.cmu.edu

About Atlanta SPIN, Incorporated

The Atlanta SPIN organization was chartered in 1991. This group has been a force for software process improvement in the Atlanta area since then. The organization has a growing membership list that currently numbers 850+ members. The group typically meets every third Wednesday of the month. Our meetings typically attract audiences of 40 – 50 people. These meetings provide a forum for like-minded people, interested in learning from others and sharing their own experiences. There is time allowed before and after the meeting for networking among the participants, including a review from the audience of any job openings that are available. The Board, through its work with Sponsors, ensures that food and drinks are also available at no cost to the membership.