

Title of Paper

Agile Quality Management – Axiom or Oxymoron?

Presenter

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Key Points

- Software quality management
 - Agile software development
 - Agile testing
 - Quality governance
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Abstract

The growing popularity of Agile Software Development seems to divide the quality community. Some see it as playing fast-and-loose, dropping all the established doctrines of quality management best practice. Others embrace it as dynamic and results-oriented, with a refreshing emphasis on testing and customer collaboration. Love it or hate it, you can't ignore it – agile is now in the mainstream and there is little sign of it being a passing fad.

The challenge of Agile is how to preserve the same levels of Quality Governance over software and process quality that are normally associated with heavyweight methods, when the emphasis is on travelling light, responding quickly and embracing change. In this talk I examine the nature of how agile teams work effectively, how agile methods change the roles of the Test Manager and QA engineer, and the challenges that presents for traditional quality assurance processes. Finally I share a set of agile quality principles and propose an agile quality governance framework.

Biography

An IT professional with over twenty years' experience in both software development and testing, David Evans is currently Director of Methodology at SQS, where he has been the key intellectual force behind SQS's Software Quality Methodology (SQM). He has had several papers on software testing published in international business journals and is a regular presenter at testing and software quality conferences. David is a thought leader and evangelist on testing in Agile development environments, and has consulted on this topic for organisations in the UK, USA, Europe, India and South Africa. For two years he actively led an internal agile team developing and testing the Microsoft .NET web application "TestStrategist" for SQS, which won the Information Age award for "Most Innovative use of IT in Professional Services". David grew up in Australia, gaining a first class honours degree in Computing from Canberra University. He now lives and works in the UK.

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