

The move to technical testers and other impacts of Agile...



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Introduction



Abstract

Organisations are moving to shorter release cycles which are made up of iterative and incremental development/testing cycles. This is not a new approach it has been tried and tested for more than 10 years. However, as this approach matures it is creating many challenges for teams, not least testers.

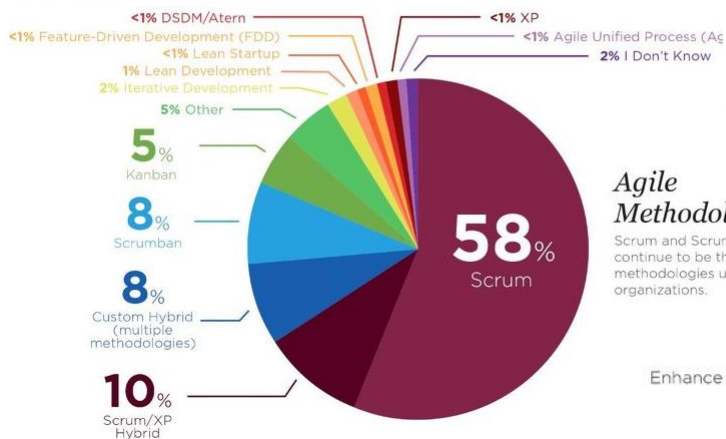
Part of this challenge has meant that organisations are looking to change the role and skills of testers. In particular to make testers more technical and looking for automation to replace manual testing. However, this attitude towards testers appears to be split between large traditional organisation and small, nimble organisation.

This presentation will look at these trends and compare those against a traditional approach and highlight and discuss the impact on testers. Focusing in particular on the following;

- Automation/technical skills versus business skills
- Speed of delivery
- Communications
- And finally the role of testers

Some Stats...

AGILE METHODS AND PRACTICES



Personal Experience with Agile Development Practices

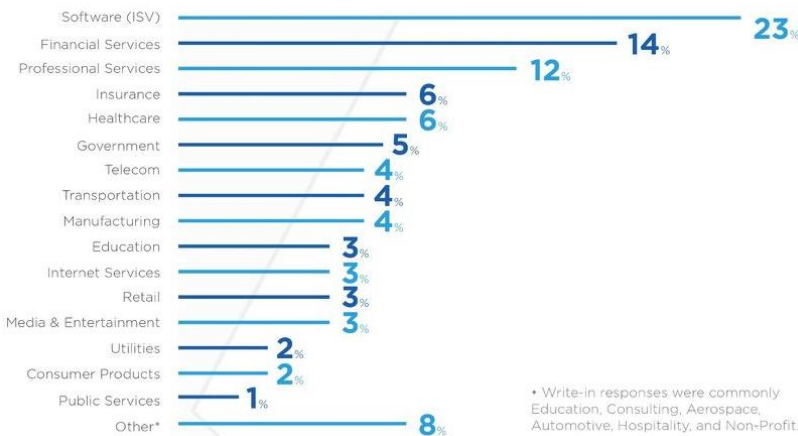


Agile Methodologies Used

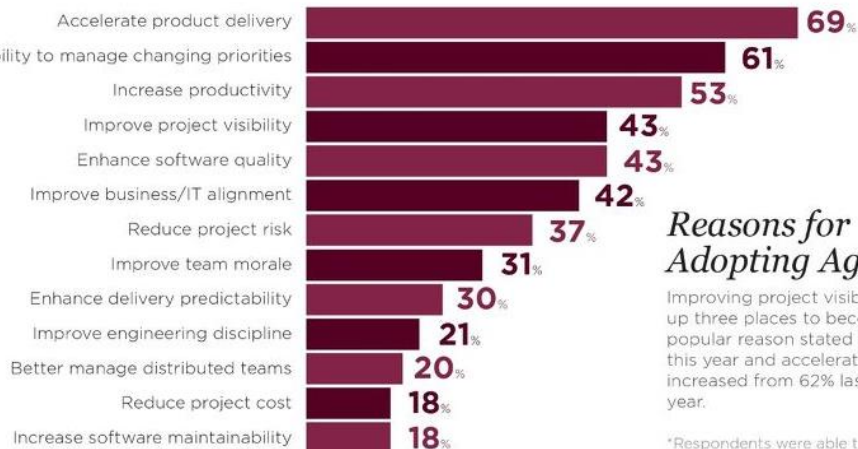
Scrum and Scrum/XP Hybrid (68%) continue to be the most common agile methodologies used by respondents' organizations.

Industries

Industries respondents worked in:



* Write-in responses were commonly Education, Consulting, Aerospace, Automotive, Hospitality, and Non-Profit.



Reasons for Adopting Agile

Improving project visibility (43%) moved up three places to become the fourth most popular reason stated for adopting agile this year and accelerating product delivery increased from 62% last year to 69% this year.

* Respondents were able to make multiple selections.

* 11th Annual State of Agile Report – VERSIONONE
<http://stateofagile.versionone.com/>

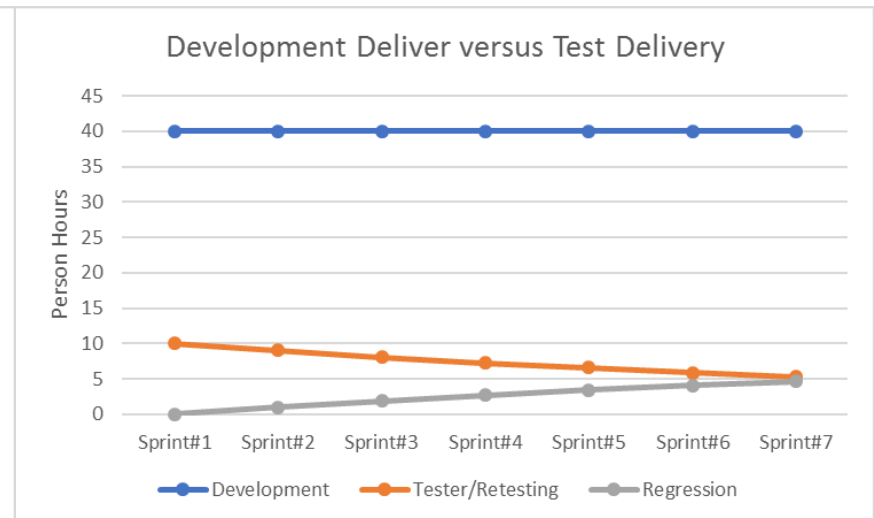
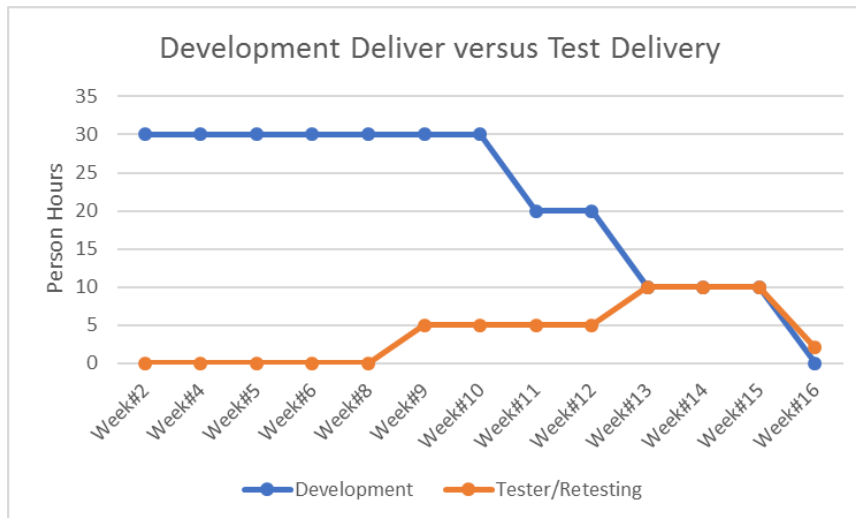
Automation/Technical versus Business Skills

- **Traditionally**

- Getting the users to sign off in UAT
- Testers needed to know business process
- Regression focus of next release

- **In the move to Agile**

- Users testing during sprints (acceptance testing)
- Testers the advocate of quality in the team?
- Regression impacting sprints/iterations



Speed of Delivery

- **Traditionally**

- Well documented, reviewed and then signed off
- Don't start until one phase is complete
- Tester thought of all that could go wrong
- Months before product went into production

- **In the move to Agile**

- Planning done at the sprint level (less use of release strategy)
- Techniques and approach developed at sprint level
- New requirements to be tested every day
- Environment changing daily



Communications

- **Traditionally**

- Documents – Strategies, Test Cases, Execution Reports, Metrics Reports etc. etc.
- Working through the test manager or test analyst
- End of test cycle reports

- **In the move to Agile**

- Stand-ups – talking to the rest of the team
- Contact with the users
- Voice an opinion – can't hide behind the metrics



Role of Testers

- **Yes – the role of testers is changing**
 - Technical skills will be very important
 - Business skills will be important but only to certain business domains
 - Testers need to become flexible and masters of the fit for purpose approach
 - They are expected to support the release into production every two weeks
 - Testers will have to decide in a sprint the most appropriate test approach taking on the role of test manager or test analyst
 - Testers are expected to communicate effectively with many more people around the team – can't hide behind the test manager

Questions



Thank you

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