

Metrics driven Agile Project Management - Roadmap for effective agile Application Development organizations, Kamalesh Donthula and Rayan Chaudhuri

Effective Project Management (PM) is especially critical in this jittery economic climate. Allocating scarce capital and personnel resources to critical project requirements, while meeting customer's expectations and staying competitive, is the most challenging PM function today. In this paper the authors will discuss how metrics driven agile PM can build effective Application Development (AD) organizations. In order to remain effective, agile AD teams are under immense pressure to quantify their performance compared to traditional AD teams. The objective of an Agile AD team should be to develop a 'small-footprint' PM function that enhances the efficiency and agility of the organization, while keeping the costs low. How can this be done? Performance of agile teams cannot be measured or evaluated in the absence of an integrated metrics system. It is important to prove that appropriate improvement is occurring in the correct areas. While defining metrics for an agile process, the goal should be to improve productivity, predictability, quality, visibility and team morale. Also, the metrics should be verified and validated for iterative processes, to support the agility of the environment. The Goal-Questions-Metrics methodology is a useful tool that can aid in the selection of metrics. In this paper, the authors will also discuss how agile project teams should determine what metrics makes the most sense to project sponsors, management and clients.

Biographies

Kamalesh Donthula has over 11 years of technology and management experience in software and accounting industry. He specializes in creation of ALM processes, strategies and architecture for complex solutions in software development and project management. He is currently Project lead at Thomson Reuters' Tax & Accounting division. Kamalesh is a certified expert in Microsoft Solution Development. He is a certified PMP and currently serving as member of the Dallas PMI chapter since 2006. Kamalesh earned his Master of Science in Software Systems from the BITS, Pilani, India and Master of Business Administration from the University of Texas, Dallas specializing in Supply chain management and project management.

Rayan Chaudhuri has over 14 years of management and technology experience in a variety of industries. His expertise involves Application Development management, SDLC effectiveness assessment and Database Engineering. Currently he leads Application Development teams and Projects at Thomson Reuters' Tax & Accounting group. Prior to joining Thomson Reuters, Rayan consulted in the areas of enterprise software development and global delivery. He received his Master of Management, with concentration in Project Management and Change Management, from University of Phoenix at Dallas, Texas, and MBA from a renowned university in India. Rayan is a Microsoft Certified Professional and also a certified Quality Management professional.