

Going Agile

(without tears or lactic acid)

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About this slide pack.

This slide pack was presented at the UK Test Management Forum. It discusses comparisons between traditional and agile test approaches, and how teams can transition between the two.

Contact Mark Crowther to learn more about other important aspects of transitioning your team to a more agile testing approach.

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Introduction – Mark Crowther

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- Blog
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Why the Change?

- Why has the **conversation** come up?
- What's driving the **need for change**?
- What **happened** to prompt the call to go agile

Situations we find

- **Development** already agile, Test need to 'catch-up'
- **Test team** frustrated, want to become more agile
 - ... *may not be planned by the organisation*
- **No team** is agile, large organisational change

Agile or Iterative?

- Are you and the team clear on what 'agile' is?
 - *In the context of your environment...*
- Is the big *Agile* what's really needed?
- Have you checked it's not *Iterative* that's needed?

Does agile mean...

- **Full-scale change** to the test approach?
 - ... *that's part of the organisation's project approach*
- Just **improving** team skills and techniques?
 - ... *then work in the given project / org context*

Communication, Communication, Co

- Have you planned how to *tell* & *engage* the team?
- Going agile can *unsettle* the test team!
 - *Concerns over what it means for them*
 - *They may already feel burned out!*
- Allow the team to participate
... not have agile *done* to them!



Team's agile skillset

- Are the team *capable* of going agile?
- What *skills and tools shortages* do they have?
 - ... *automation is usually a stumbling block*
 - ... *as are techniques like Exploratory Testing*
- How to *train and equip* the team for agile testing?

What's actually going to change?

- When and how **testing activities** take place
- The testing **techniques** and **approaches** used
- The **artifacts** the team uses or creates

Change may occur gradually

Effecting Gradual Change

- How to avoid 'big bang' agile?
- What easy change can be achieved within a 'traditional' framework?
- What stepping stones to more complete agile approach?

Go agile anyway... quietly

- Even where the **organisation** isn't agile
- Change can happen **within the Test function**
- Keep the '**big plan**' under wraps
 - *Avoid unnerving the organisation*



Planning & Analysis

Traditional

- Big up front Test Planning against Requirements
- Single, monolithic, Test Analysis phase

Agile

- Iterations of planning, testing back-log creation
- Progressive analysis of testing scope, needs, ...

Test Authoring & Review

Traditional

- Test Case sets written well in advance of testing
- Little or no review, inside or outside the team

Agile

- Just enough tests for a given scope, test back-log
- Collaborative Specification, Examples, 3 Amigo's

Test Execution & Reporting

Traditional

- Mostly Manual, little automation (specialised)
- Automation introduced at the end for regression

Agile

- Smaller cycles of testing, incremental 'done'
- 50/50 split manual/automated, introduced early

Retest & Bug Closure

Traditional

- Mostly Manual, some automated regression
- Further manual regression around 'risk areas'

Agile

- Some manual retest, mainly automated regression
- Exploratory regression as a standard

Summary Reporting & Closure

Traditional

- Focused on Test Cases and Bugs
- Subjective 'done', testing not always complete

Agile

- All Examples passing, all related bugs closed
- Test completion in context of the whole effort

Planning & Analysis

- Cut the **Test Plan** down to size
 - ... *try for 5 to 6 pages*
 - ... *extract content into 'process' documents*
- **Collaborative Specification**
 - ... *finally gets test working close to Customers*

Test Authoring & Review

- Create Examples, use Given-When-Then format
 - ... *edge* and *fail* for further *Illustrative Examples*
- Author tests from the User's perspective
 - ... *stop trying to test code* directly
- '3 Amigos' Review & Elaboration workshops

Test Authoring & Review

- Remember: All the 'other' testing doesn't go away!
 - *Combination / Interaction testing*
 - *Scenario Testing*
 - *Business Cycle Testing*

 - *Non-functional testing*
 - *Compatibility*

Test Execution & Reporting

- Execute Examples – then automate **immediately!**
 - ... *integrate test automation with the build process*
- Use **Exploratory Testing** extensively
 - ... *increase **useful** testing, reduce admin time*
- Status Boards & Stand-Up meetings
 - ... *keep everything visible and understood*

Re-test & bug closure

- Use your Automated Regression Scripts *first*
 - ... see if they pass / what's now failing
 - ... ideally run as part of the **build** process!
- Apply *Exploratory Testing* here also
- Close bugs as an '**in-line**' testing task
 - ... *Don't store them up!*

Summary Reporting & Closure

- Test **Summary Report** – still valuable
 - *Issue one at the end of each iteration*
- Test team to join the **Sprint / Project Retrospective**
 - *Root Cause Analysis, Corrective Action Plans*

No tears or lactic acid

- Go agile **gradually**
 - *At a rate and pace the team can handle*
- Introduce agile practices **incrementally**
 - *Demonstrate value, avoid unsettling people*

Going **AGILE** may not be that hard to achieve
... you may be doing most of it already!

End of the Presentation

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