Iterative and Incremental development

01219116/01219117 Programming 2 Spring Semester 2018

Traditional Waterfall Model



Problems (1)

• Very hard to get all requirement up-front

Problems (2)

- Requirement changes
 - Changes in business condition
 - Knowledge gained from the development/deployment

Problems (3)

- Quality problem
 - Testing at the end might not be sufficient
 - Before testing begins, the team has no clear idea how the project progresses.

Big-bang integration

- This is a classic recipe to failure.
- Work on many (large) parts of the project and wait to combine them at the end (and hope that it will work).



Software Development as a Journey

• You have (unclear) goals, with limited resource.

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Early feedback



Software Development as a Journey

• Early feedback



Software Development as a Journey (Agile view)



The feedback loop: lean startup



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Continuous building and learning loop

How can you get feedback?

- Are we building the right product?
- Talk with the customer:
 - Developer: This is my piece of code (500 lines) that still doesn't do anything much. Can you give us feedback?
 - Customer: ???
- You need to be able to show a concrete unit of work to the customer.

How can you get feedback?

- Are we building the product right?
- Software Quality (given that the requirement is known and is clear)
- Use various testing activities
 - unit testing
 - automated functional testing
 - manual testing

Build

- What to build?
- When to build?
- How to build?

What to build?

Small

 \rightarrow doesn't take too much time to build

• Measurable

 \rightarrow should be able to obtain feedback after we build

Goal-based

 \rightarrow should provide us with the right kind of feedback

Many kinds of feedback

- Functionality
 - Does our product solve the user's problems?
 - Does it produce correct answers?
- Usability
 - Is it easy to use?
 - Does it look nice? Is it beautiful?
- Efficiency
 - Can the product support 100 concurrent users?
- Security, Compatibility, etc

Different feedback needed at different time



Incremental development

• To build the whole thing, we work by building its parts, one by one.



Iterative development

- We repeatedly build something in rounds.
- We know that we will not get it right the first time, but we keep working on it many times.



Tasks, tasks, tasks

- Breakdown the whole project into a set of tasks
- Think about incremental development

 \rightarrow what are the parts that you need to build?

• Think about iterative development

 \rightarrow for each part, what are the smaller steps we can take to complete it?

Complete?

- The goal is not to have a complete task breakdown.
 - (That's nearly impossible, and usually leads to a waste of time and effort.)
- But to have enough product idea to start building.
- The task list will be refined over time.

Prioritization

- Too many tasks to do, which one to build first?
- Work on the one with the highest "return".
 - What are the possible "returns"?

Practice

- Return to your group from last week.
- Think about the game that you have chosen.
- Breakdown the tasks you need to do if you want to build that game.
 - Don't try to get all the details in the first round.

Example: Prince of Persia (Round 1)

- Show map
- Show main character
- Move the main character according to the keyboard input
- Animate the main character movement

Example: Prince of Persia (Round 2)

- Show map
 - Show map with just one row
 - Show map with many rows with free space for climbing (without the traps)
 - Show map with many rows with free space for falling (without the traps)
 - Show map with moving cutters
 - Show map with moving spikes

Example: Price of Persia (Round 2)

- Move the character
 - Move the character in a simple row
 - Let the character climb the steps
 - Let the character fall if it move to a free space
 - Move the character through moving cutters
 - Move the character through moving cutters and get killed

Practice

- From the tasks that you have listed, prioritize them.
- We will have discussions after you finish.

When to build?

- You want to iterate over this loop quickly.
- There are many ways to force you to get moving in this loop.
- Simplest one is to use fixed time-boxing.



Fixed time-boxing



Time

- Work in a fixed time frame, e.g. one to four week periods.
 - In Scrum, this is called a **sprint**.
- In that period, build something and get feedback.

How to build?

- We need engineering practices that "support" incremental and iterative development.
- How to make sure that _____ over a long period of time.
 - We remember what we did
 - The features that already work remain working
 - The feature can be added
 - The code can be modified, fixed, changed
 - The code is understandable