

Agile Development in the Army: A Case Study



Biography:

Dr. Luigi Benedicenti is a full professor and dean in the Faculty of Computer Science at the University of New Brunswick. Benedicenti received his Laurea in Electrical Engineering and Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the University of Genoa, Italy. He is a Professional Engineer licensed in Saskatchewan and a licensed Italian Engineer. His collaborative network extends beyond Saskatchewan with TRILabs and IEEE, and Canada through collaborative work with colleagues in Europe, South East Asia, and North America.

Benedicenti's current research is in three areas: Software Agents, Software Process, and New Media Technology. He envisions the unification of platform, tools, and optimizations for the provision of persistent distributed digital services, regardless of people's location and delivery device.

Agile development is common in industry, but it requires a degree of flexibility that prevents its adoption for some organizations. In particular, organizations that rely on a clear chain of command with ingrained and near-instinctual reactivity to an emergent situation often possess cultures that hamper the deep adoption of a simpler process like Scrum.

This talk will offer an account of transforming the culture of the 4th Logistic Division of the Italian Army's General Staff through the creation of a Command and Control software using Scrum. The project was approved by the Army as a pilot to determine whether it could be possible to reduce development costs and at the same time produce a product better responsive to the changing conditions in the theatre of operations, where often the confrontation has become asymmetric and requires reaction times much faster than the conventional approach. After 13 five-week long sprints, we were able to deliver a complete product that met all user requirements and satisfied regulatory Army requirements. Achieving this result required a concerted effort to change the development culture, but even when counting this effort as part of the development costs, the total development costs were lower than the costs of using the traditional development method.

DATE, Monday, November 19th
BUILDING Ganong Hall 314
TIME 2:30 pm

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