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Using Agile Software Development to Create an Operational Testing Tool

21 Jul 2011



The Johns Hopkins University
APPLIED PHYSICS LABORATORY

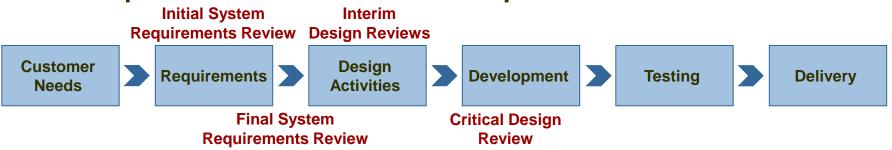
Motivation

- Rapid product development User needs definition to concept development to capability delivery within two years
- Classic Systems Engineering method did not seem appropriate for rapid product development
 - Not enough time to complete the SE cycle
 - Not enough money to fund the work required
- Blended classic Systems Engineering with an agile design and development approach
 - Meet rapid design and development needs but
 - still deal with expectations of sponsor for traditional acquisition deliverables



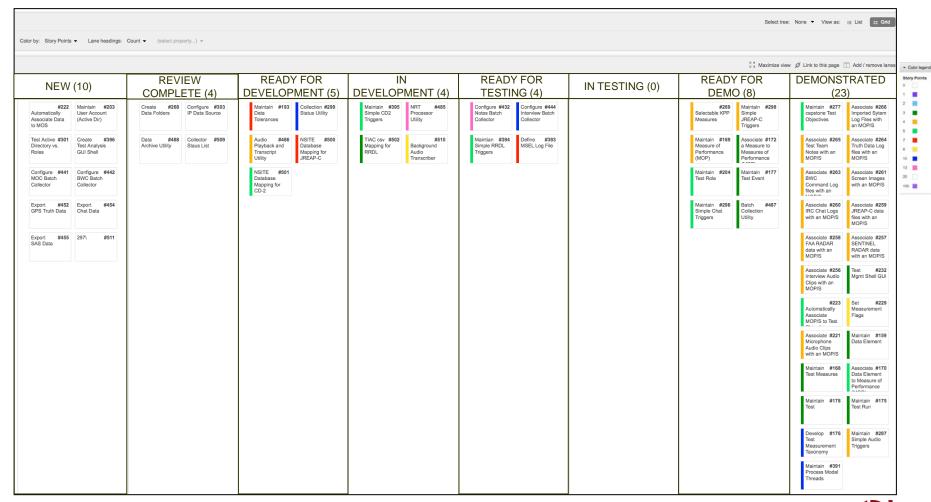
The Blended Approach

- Determined customer needs through multiple knowledge elicitation sessions
- Created total system requirements and top-level design upfront for sponsor approval
- Used agile methodology know as Scrum during system development
- Each sprint had a defined focus and product





The System's Work Packages





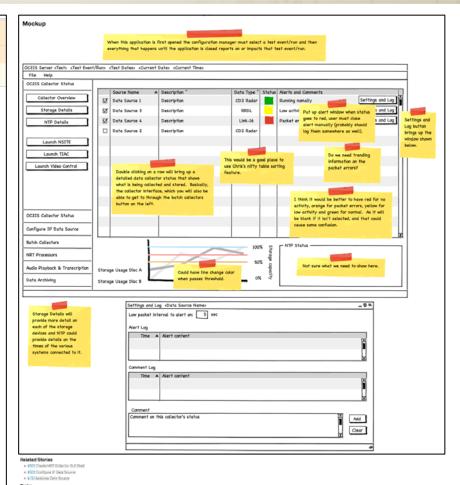
Contents of a Work Package

Collection Status Utility (v50 - Latest version, last modified 21 days ago) (no tags set) Narrative As a Configuration Manager, I can select a Collector Status utility, so that I can monitor the real-time collection process. Acceptance Criteria 1. Verify that, the Video File Configurator allows the Configuration Manager to: • set up (name) a destination directory for video files. • tag (via file re-naming convention?) files from the video logger w/ Test Event & Test Run. • assign a (position/audio source) name to each (of four) audio logger channels. • modify current configuration (display naming structure)

- 2. Verify that, the Audio File Configurator allows the Configuration Manager to:
 - · set up (name) a destination directory for audio files.
 - . tag (via file re-naming convention?) files from the audio logger w/ Test Event & Test Run.
 - · assign a (position/audio source) name to each (of 16) audio logger channels.
 - . select (filter) un-wanted channels from being stored in the OC2Is file system OC2IS ignores these channels.
 - · modify current configuration

· clear current configuration

- · clear current configuration
- 3. Verify that the User is able to see the amount of storage space used (in GB) vs. capacity in the drives the RT collectors are writing to.
 - . up to three (TH) or four (QBJ) storage drive locations on the OC2IS system should be able to be monitored.
 - · this status (scrolling bar graph?) should change colors
 - · at 50% unused capacity (YELLOW)
 - · at 25% unused capacity (RED)
- 4. Verify that there is an Network Time Protocol (NTP) Server area that allows the Configuration Manager to:
 - · see the current NTP Server time being broadcast to all machines.
 - · allows the Configuration Manager to call the NTP server configuration window (via http: script?),
 - · see the status of NTP polling of all machines on the OTS network.
- 5. Verify that the NTP Server polls all machines on the OTS network every 10 seconds and chaecks to see that:
 - . time is accurate to the second for the last 5 poll cycles GREEN
 - . there is a time error > 1sec for up to two of the last 5 polling cycles YELLOW
 - . there is a time error > 2sec or an error >1sec for 3 or more of the last 5 polling cycles.





Successes

- Satisfied sponsor need for requirement and configuration item documentation in early stages
- Established a collaborative development lab to maintain contact with customer/sponsor/remote team members during project execution
 - Telecon lines, web-based collaboration tools
- Self-synchronization of the team shift roles and activities to meet current needs
 - Example: Hardware architect also tests code
- Product owner, developers and tester in same lab during same hours to facilitate communication beyond daily update meetings
 - All but one of the team members are part-time work afternoon together in lab.
- Adaptable to new customer needs and suggestions during development

