

Presentations Available from Lean-Agile Partners

Each of the below presentations can be given by Nancy Van Schooenderwoert in a 90 minute format. This includes time for questions. Here are the abstracts:

A Jet Engine on Your Pinto: When HyperSpeed Agile Teams Pull A Slow Organization

If you bolted a jet engine on your car, the engine would go very fast– but it would tear the car apart! When software teams are super-charged by Agile, they place a high strain on the organization. This can make agile adoption fail even though every team is successful. Reinforce the car structure and linkage to the jet engine, and you can get the desired speed – same for organizations. How? First, executives must know what strains to expect and have a response ready. The most critical of those responses is to create super-strong teams. Ten years of agile coaching backs the ideas presented.



Agile Test Techniques for Embedded Software

Strong unit testing is the foundation of agile software development but embedded systems present special problems. Test of embedded software is bound up with test of hardware, crossing professional and organizational boundaries. Even with evolving hardware in the picture, agile methods work well provided you use multiple test strategies. This has powerful implications for improving the quality of safety-critical systems and other kinds of high-reliability systems which commonly have embedded software at their core.

Bug-free Code: A Case Study You Can Use

Bug-free Code: A Case Study You Can Use -- Most software teams spend upwards of half their time on debugging and rework. What if you could produce bug-free code? It would be like doubling your capacity for no extra cost. It's been done, and by ordinary developers. We'll look at detailed metrics from a three year agile project where a newly formed development team produced a new embedded software product from scratch. They averaged fewer than 20 bugs per year, while significantly boosting productivity. You'll see how to compute your own team's bug rate and how you compare with the software industry in general.

Coming of Age of an Agile Company

Coming of Age of an Agile Company -- What really happens when a company decides to go agile? What happens after the first pilot project when everyone's on their best behavior? Like any relationship, there's a "first fight". There is a "coming to terms" with the things we cannot change. There is a realization that this is bigger than just 'Agile'. It's not only about software anymore. It's not only about the agile teams. The needs of other departments must be addressed. If agile teams are



self-organizing, what are managers supposed to be doing? This session presents stories from Nancy's experiences coaching many agile teams and their managers as part of one company's move to go agile.

Seven Paradoxes of Agile Software Development

Seven Paradoxes of Agile Software Development -- Agile software development has many very common-sense ideas in it, but if it was all common-sense we'd have been using it long ago. Agile also contains counter-intuitive ideas: paradoxes that make it hard for people accept. For example, the notion that we go fast BECAUSE we take quality to the max is paradoxical for people. They are used to having to trade off speed and quality. On the other hand the idea that those who do the work are best placed to estimate it is seen as perfectly sensible. How can a coherent design emerge if design is done one iteration at a time? Another paradox. But it's easy to accept that when you build a system iteratively, you can learn more quickly from your experiences - that's common sense. We'll explore the 5 other paradoxes, and you'll see how a grasp of these helps you to take your agile practices to the next level.

Safety-Critical Applications built via Agile Discipline

Safety-Critical Applications built via Agile Discipline - Would you trust an Agile software team to build the control software for aircraft navigation? For nuclear submarines? How about for your bank's online accounts and wire transfers? There is a strong perception in the software industry that Agile practices are best suited to applications that don't have to work 100% or that don't have a hard deadline.

The truth is that Agile practices demand a high degree of discipline, and teams *can* master the art of delivering predictably in the face of changing situations. This has broad implications for mission-critical and safety-critical projects. The unfortunate impression that Agile is extreme and risky is an obstacle to progress where it is needed most urgently. Nancy's talk will draw on real-life situations from actual Agile teams to show you what this high degree of discipline consists of, how real teams have used it (well and poorly!), and what organizational problems stand in the way of greater use of it. "If it's so good then why isn't everybody using it?" is a valid question to ask, and we will!

Benefits of engaging Nancy as speaker

- △ Nancy led a team that produced well-tested releases on demand steadily for a 3-year project. Toward the end, her team was so proficient they could turn out a new full release each morning – and did just that for a phase of their project, because changes to the software were the best way to help other engineering groups understand trade-offs and troubleshoot non-software problems. This team achieved 3 times the industry average productivity, and 20 times the industry average quality – sustained for three full years.
- △ She uses a down-to-earth presentation style, and everyday examples to show audiences how much they *already know intuitively* about the topic
- △ Good sustainable object oriented software design is her foundation for team practices
- △ Nancy learned her lean and agile theory in the thick of real-world projects – no one else is better qualified to offer realistic tactics for people working in a spectrum of roles
- △ Nancy’s approach to agility is not tied to any product or tool for you to buy – only to the fundamental ideas that are accessible to all
- △ Nancy comes from a solid technical background - having bootstrapped agile methods for herself, her team, and her managers while performing on very demanding projects
- △ She has held positions in software development, software test, systems analyst, and project management so can speak authentically to the concerns of people in these roles
- △ Nancy has guided companies on their journey from trying out a few agile techniques to transforming all their project portfolio to using agile techniques, without using an army of outside consultants
- △ No dogmas. Nancy knows all the methodologies but is not a “groupie” for any. You’ll learn to think it through based on simple fundamentals

Biographical Information

Nancy Van Schooenderwoert



Nancy Van Schooenderwoert is an Agile Enterprise coach with over a decade of experience applying Agile practices as an engineer, manager, and consultant. She shows executives how to apply Agile and Lean principles to all their business process, not just software development. She has led Agile change initiatives in life-critical, highly regulated industries, and coached clients in the art of Agile technical and management leadership. Nancy's experience spans embedded software development and applications in aerospace, factory automation, medical devices, defense systems, as well as in financial services.

Ten years ago Nancy introduced agile techniques to embedded software, including safety-critical applications. She was among the first to publish advice on the techniques that work in real world embedded projects. She has introduced agile ideas and practices to another field where it was thought to be impossible - data warehousing and large data migrations. Coaches she mentored are now the leaders in this new field applying lean-agile principles to applications where data quality is central.

Nancy Van Schooenderwoert is Principal Coach at Lean-Agile Partners Inc. Lean-Agile Partners demonstrates to their customers ways to use and adopt agile practices in their organizations. They "teach their customers how to fish" by training customer staff to coach agile teams. Working with both their customers' management and technical teams, Lean-Agile Partners helps companies design, plan, and implement their Agile adoption programs. Customers get the benefit of Lean-Agile Partners' experience while staying in control of their Agile transformation.

She holds a bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering from Rochester Institute of Technology and is a regular contributor of articles and advisories for the Cutter IT Journal. Nancy holds a Scrum Master certification, has edited a column for the Agile Times, and served on the IEEE 1648 committee to define a standard for customers of agile teams. She has been a regular presenter at various Agile-related conferences since 2003, and also at the Embedded Systems conference. Her work in applying Agile methods to embedded systems has been referenced by Jim Shore and Mary Poppendieck in their recent books. She speaks at numerous software professional gatherings, and is currently active on the board of Agile Bazaar, Boston's agile professional community hub.