

Testing in Scrum

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Wrocław, 11.10.2011

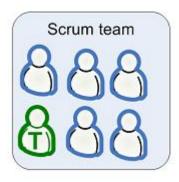
AGENDA

- Role of tester in an agile project
- Acceptance testing
- Testing guidelines



Scrum teams are supposed to be cross functional!

Tester is a member of the team!



Tester role:

- •The tester is the "signoff guy" Nothing is considered "done" in a sprint until he says it's done. I've found that developers often say something is done when it really isn't.
- Prepare test cases.
- Set up a test environment.
- Clarify requirements.
- Improve build scripts.
- Further breakdown of stories into tasks.
- Help in pair programming.
- Identify key questions from the developers and get them answered.



Role of tester at the beginning of the sprint

At the beginning of the project there might be nothing to test.

Agile team member is not only focused on his domain but should be cross-functional (at least to some extent). If it is not then there is always some administration or configuration task to do.

If such person still cannot find job then we can ask to do coffee for all team members, which guarantees that next time he will find something to do...

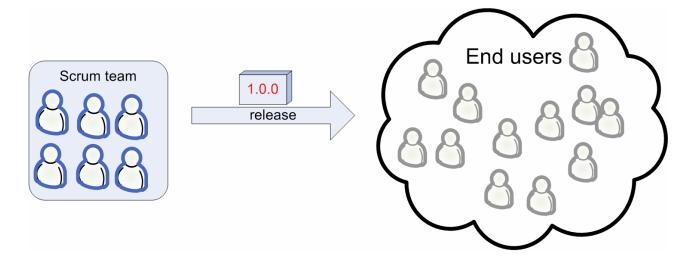


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The ideal Scrum world

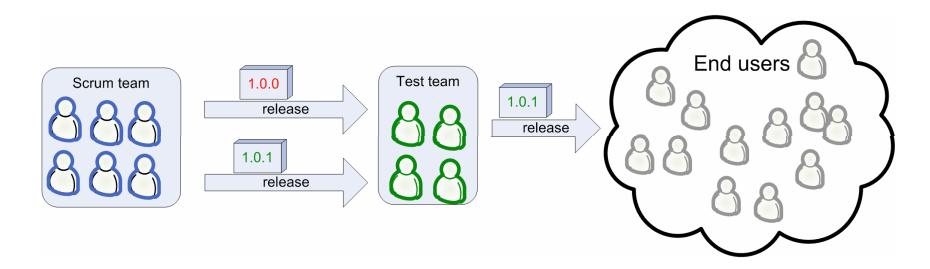


In the ideal Scrum world, a sprint results in a potentially deployable version of your system. So just deploy it, right?



Acceptance testing

Wrong. Some kind of manual acceptance testing phase is required.

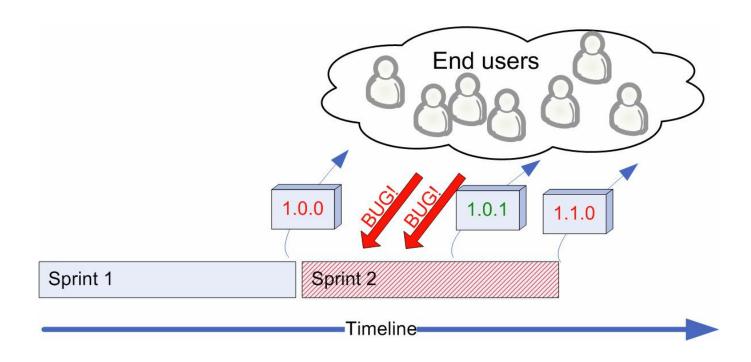


That's when dedicated testers that are not part of the team

The testers access the system in exactly the same way as the end users, which means they must be done manually (assuming your system is for Human users).



Acceptance testing disrupts sprint flow





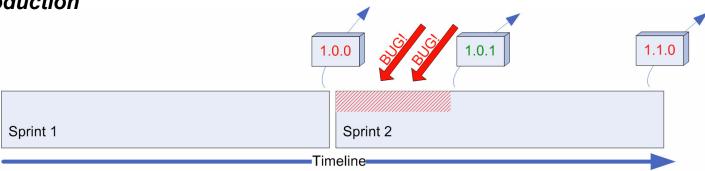
How to cope with Acceptance testing issues

No clear answer, only some tips.

Approach 1: "Don't start building new stuff until the old stuff is in production"



Approach 2: "OK to start building new stuff, but reserve a buffer and prioritize getting the old stuff into production"



Sometimes, it is not possible to apply time-boxed sprints -> stop using scrum (kanban?)



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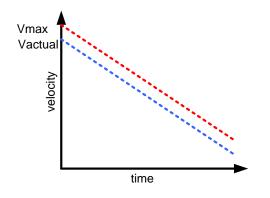
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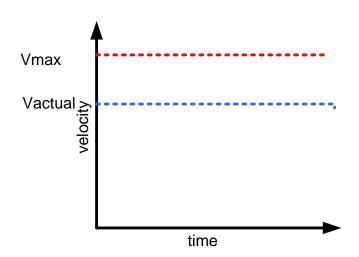
How to improve the situation

Minimize acceptance test phase by:

- Remember: testers are part of your team
- Automate tests
- Maximizing the quality of the code delivered from the Scrum team
- Maximizing the efficiency of the manual test work (best testers, best tools)
- Increase quality by doing less per sprint
- Continually improve



Build less, but build it stable.





Sources & References

- 1. Henrik Kniberg, Scrum and XP from the Trenches, http://www.infoq.com/minibooks/scrum-xp-from-the-trenches
- 2. http://www.slideshare.net/dwhelan/agile-testing-and-the-role-of-the-agile-tester
- 3. Lisa Crispin, Agile Testing: A Practical Guide for Testers and Agile Teams



Thank you very much for your attention!

