



**26<sup>th</sup>** annual **INCOSE**  
international symposium

Edinburgh, UK  
July 18 - 21, 2016

# '50 shades of Agile'



*An analysis of different perspectives  
of Agile SE*



# The authors

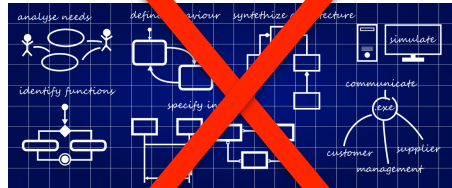
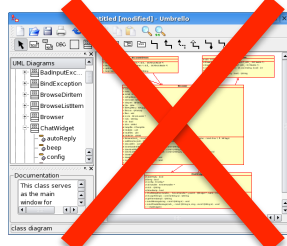
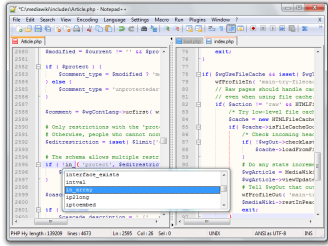


+ Kirsty



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# A long time ago in a galaxy far-far away



# But software is different from systems



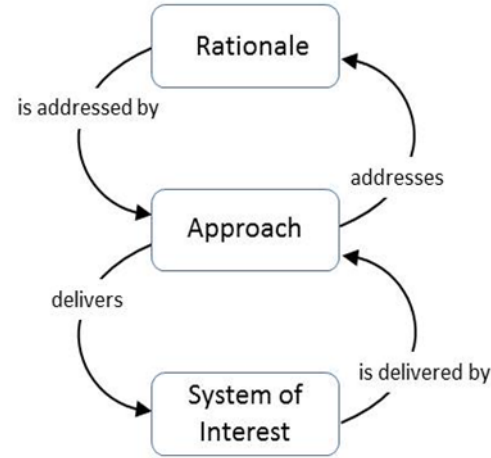


# Approach taken in paper



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S6 SE Documents/models	A10 Develop and agree up-front SE products using agile <i>Agile SE document development</i>	R9 We want the up front SE to be delivered quickly with maximum user engagement
S7 The wider System of Systems	A8 Split technology and product development A7 Develop solution in small evolutionary steps <i>High tempo, changing requirements, immediate operational feedback</i>	R3 The system's environment will change R4 The customer is unable to define the requirements up front R5 Technology is developing faster than we can integrate
S8 The operational capability	A2 Tailor the SE process A4 Reuse existing components/sub-systems A6 Incremental Design, integration and testing A5 Incremental design and deployment	R6 Good tailoring of the SE process can speed things up R8 We want Agile, but we want it fully defined first (Agile in handcuffs)
S1 The 'user interface' & mission software	A3 Buy off the shelf kit	R2 I need to deliver something within a specified timeframe
S2 All the software - including safety critical software <i>Agile or traditional</i>	A1 Ignore the formal SE process, it's just useless bureaucracy <i>Snake oil and the agile excuse</i>	R7 Because it is the next 'silver bullet' we need to be doing R1 The SE process is time-consuming and boring, we want to start building stuff immediately
S3 A component		
S4 A sub-system <i>Traditional</i>		

# Rationale for Agile

R1 The SE process is time-consuming and boring,  
we want to start building stuff immediately

R2 I need to deliver something within a specified  
timeframe

R3 The system's environment will change

R4 The customer is unable to define the  
requirements up front

R5 Technology is developing faster than we can  
integrate

R6 Good tailoring of the SE process can speed  
things up

R7 Because it is the next 'silver bullet' we need to  
be doing

R8 We want Agile, but we want it fully defined first  
(Agile in handcuffs)

R9 We want the up-front SE to be delivered quickly  
with maximum user engagement



# Systems we could develop using agile

S1 The 'user interface' & mission software

S2 All the software – including safety critical software

S3 A component

S4 A sub-system

S5 The product system

S6 The operational capability

S7 The wider System of Systems

S8 SE Documents/models



Image © Network Rail

# Approaches to agile

A1 Ignore the formal SE process, it's just useless bureaucracy

A2 Tailor the SE process

A3 Buy off the shelf kit

A4 Reuse existing components/sub-systems

A5 Incremental design and deployment

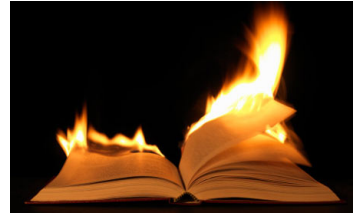
A6 Incremental design, integration and testing

A7 Develop solution in small evolutionary steps

A8 Split technology and product development

A9 Half-baked transition

A10 Develop and agree up-front SE products using Agile





# Analysis

- We analysed the weltanschauungen against
  - Cynefin framework
  - Ring cycle
  - 12 agile principles
  - *Hitchins' 5 layer model*



# Cynefin



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R3. "The system's environment will change after we deploy the solution"

R6. "Good tailoring of the SE process can speed things up and save money"

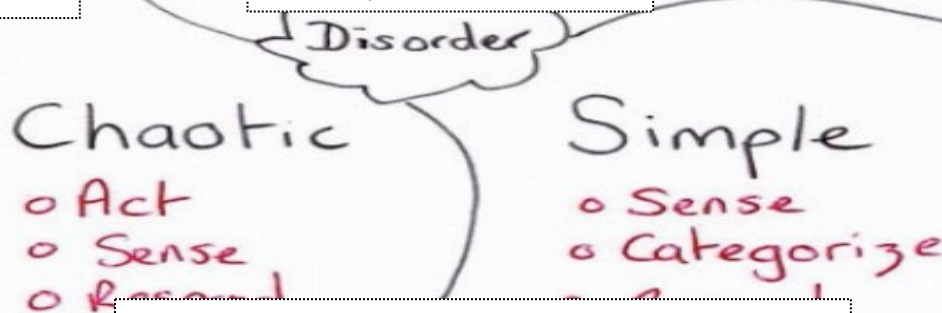
R9. "We want the up front SE to be delivered quickly with maximum user engagement"

R5. "Technology is developing faster than I can integrate effectively"

R4. "The customer and users are unable to define the requirements up front"

R2. "I need to deliver something within a specified timeframe"

R8. "We want Agile, but we want it fully defined first (Agile in handcuffs)"



R1. "The SE process is time-consuming and boring, we want to start building stuff immediately"

# Cynefin



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A7. Develop solution in small evolutionary steps, trying it at each stage and learning from experience

A8. Split technology development and product development.

A10. Develop and agree up-front SE documents/models in an agile manner prior to full development

A6. Incremental Design, Integration and Testing

A2. Selectively 'value engineer' or tailor the SE process to focus effort on the greatest value-adding elements of SE

A4. Avoid delays/reduce cost by reusing existing components/sub-systems

A5. Incremental design and deployment

A3. Buy off the shelf kit

A1. Ignore the formal SE process, it's just useless bureaucracy

Chaotic  
o Act  
o Sense

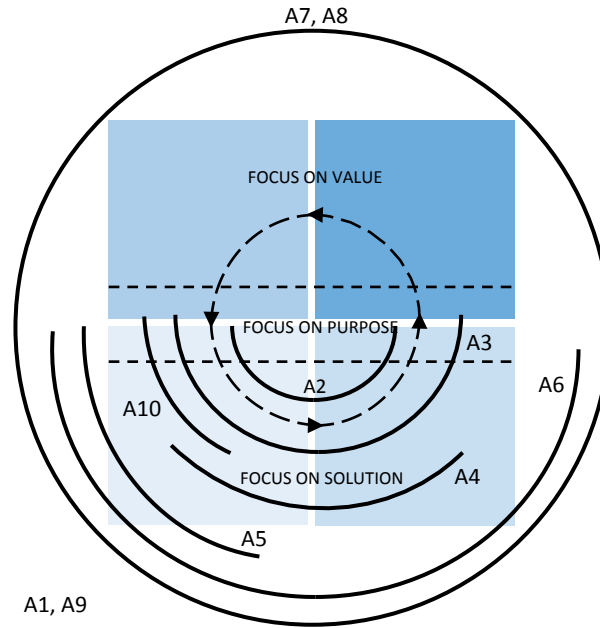
Simple  
o Sense  
o Categorize  
o Respond

# Agile principles

	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8	A10
Early and continuous delivery									
Welcome changing requirements									
Deliver working software frequently									
Work together daily									
Motivated individuals									
Face-to-face conversation.									
Working software									
Sustainable development									
Technical excellence and good design									
Simplicity									
Self-organizing teams.									
Team reflects and adjusts behaviour									



# Ring cycle



# Summary of analysis



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S8 SE Documents/  
models

S1 The 'user interface' &  
mission software  
Systems

S2 All the software –  
including safety critical  
software

S6 The operational  
capability

S4 The 'user interface'  
& mission software  
S5 The product system  
S5 The product system  
S6 The operational  
capability  
S2 All the software –  
including safety critical  
software  
S7 The wider System of  
Systems  
*Agile or  
traditional*

S8 SE Documents/models  
S3 A component

S4 A sub-system  
*Traditional*

A10 Develop and agree up-front SE  
products using Agile

A1 ~~Ignore the formal SE process~~, it's  
just useless bureaucracy

A8 Split technology and product  
development

A3 Buy off the shelf kit

A7 Develop solution in small

A4 Reuse existing components/sub-  
systems  
*High tempo, changing requirements,  
immediate operational feedback*

A5 Incremental design and  
deployment

A4 Reuse existing components/  
sub-systems  
and testing

A6 Incremental design, integration and  
testing

A7 Develop solution in small  
evolutionary steps

A5 Incremental design and deployment

A3 Buy off the shelf kit

A9 Half-baked transition

A10 Develop and agree up-front SE  
products using Agile  
*Snake oil and the Agile excuse*

R9 We want the up-front SE to be  
delivered quickly with maximum user  
engagement  
*immediately*

R3 The system's environment will change

R4 The customer is unable to define the  
requirements up front

R5 Technology is developing faster than  
we can integrate

requirements up front

*Faster, high integrity SE against a  
changing requirement*

R5 Technology is developing faster than  
we can integrate

R6 Good tailoring of the SE process can  
speed things up

R8 We want Agile, but we want it fully  
defined first (Agile in handcuffs)

we need to be doing

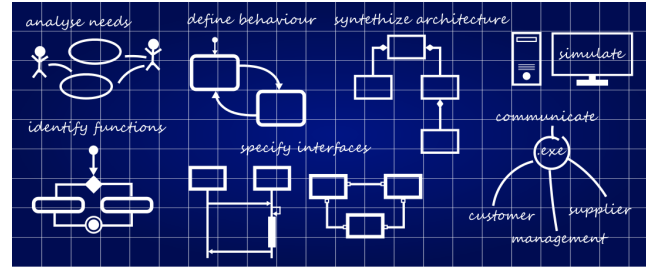
R2 I need to deliver something within a  
specified time frame, but we want it fully

defined first (Agile in handcuffs)

R7 Because it is the next 'silver bullet' we  
need to be doing

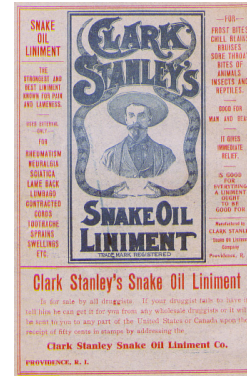
R1 The SE process is time-consuming  
and boring, we want to start building stuff  
immediately

# Four shades of agile?



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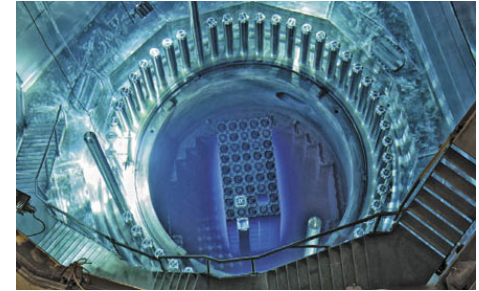
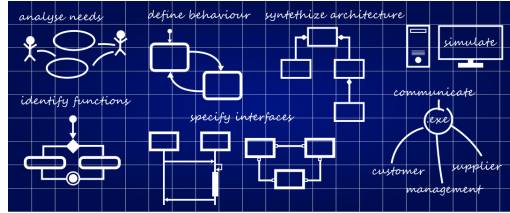
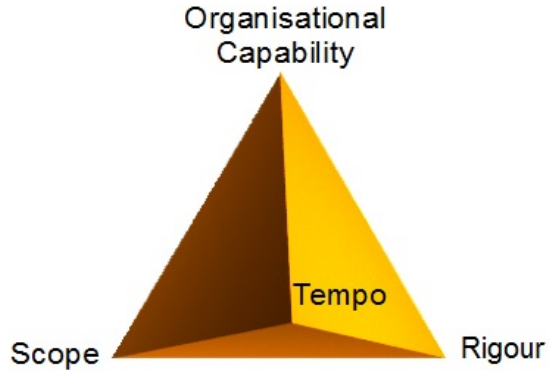


# Where does agile sit?



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# Perceptions and misunderstandings



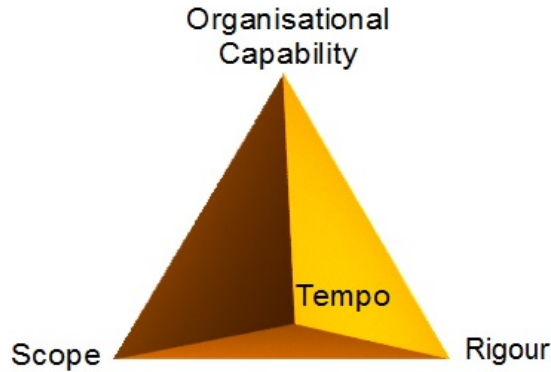
- No common understanding
- Risk it becomes a meaningless label
- Move to Agile difficult because we don't understand why low tempo SE works!
- Operational use is a critical element of the Agile approach.
- Agile approaches can be used to develop SE documents or models.
- Agile rigour is different to conventional rigour

# Agile SE is different



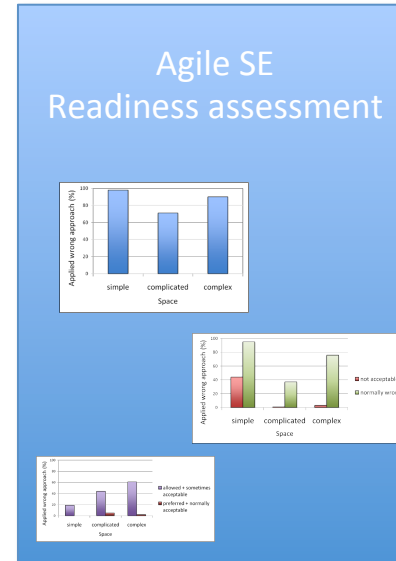
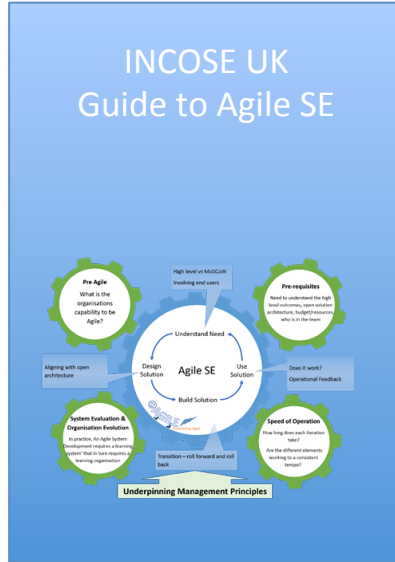
- Agile software techniques not always applicable to SE.
- Agile SE is different to Agile Software Engineering.
- Conventional and agile SE are in different part of the trade space
- Conventional SE manages risks by managing them, agile SE by avoiding them

# Different SE for different places



- The Agile SE and conventional SE paradigms are fundamentally different
- Conventional works well in complicated space
- Agile works well in complex spaces
- Conventional SE works best when assurance, design, manufacture and installation rework costs are significant
- The more effective the organisation the better able to do agile and conventional SE

# Future work





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