

Agile Product Quality

Perceptions, Definitions
& Their Applicability In Practice

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EuroSTAR
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eBook



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We are delighted to present this eBook written by Drs. Erik van Veenendaal, a recipient of the EuroSTAR Testing Excellence Award and a three time winner of the EuroSTAR Best Tutorial Award.

Enjoy!

The EuroSTAR Team



Drs. Erik van Veenendaal

Drs. Erik van Veenendaal, CISA (www.erikvanveenendaal.nl), is a leading international consultant and trainer, and a recognized expert in the area of software testing and requirement engineering. Erik is the (co-) author of numerous papers and a number of books on software quality and testing. He is a regular speaker at both national and international testing conferences and a leading international trainer in the field of software testing.

Since its foundation in 2002, Erik has been strongly involved in the International Software Testing Qualifications Board (ISTQB). From 2005 to 2009, he was the vice-president of the ISTQB organization; living in Bonaire, today he is the president for the Curaçao Testing Qualifications Board (CTQB).

Erik one of the core developers of the TMap test methodology and the TMMi test improvement model, and currently the CEO of the TMMi Foundation. For his major contribution to the field of testing, Erik received the European Testing Excellence Award (2007) and the ISTQB International Testing Excellence Award (2015).

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Abstract

Contrary to what is commonly assumed, Agile software development does not always, in practice, result in higher levels of product quality. This is despite the fact that quality is said to be 'built-in' when using Agile delivery methodologies. Part of the quality problem can be traced back to the different perceptions and expectations the various stakeholders have about product quality.

In this e-book a product quality framework is presented that can be used to discuss, define and ultimately align Agile product quality views across the various stakeholders. Conformance to specification, fitness-for-use, quality attributes and trade-offs are all positioned in this framework and related back to Agile software development.

The framework as presented has proven to be highly useful and easy to apply. Understanding what quality means and what the quality objective are in context, managing expectations and working towards the defined objectives using the correct Agile practices with the right balance, will make a difference. This is key to fulfilling the Agile promise of 'built-in' quality, but an Agile project needs to invest some resources above and beyond the immediate delivery of the product to achieve this.



Key Takeaways

After reading this e-book the reader will:

- Be aware that Agile does not always and automatically imply higher levels of product quality.
- Be aware there are different stakeholder hold different perceptions, expectations and definitions for Agile product quality, which means these need to be aligned.
- Understand the importance to better define what Agile product quality means in context.
- Have an understanding of a supporting framework for discussing and defining product quality.
- Have an overview of the various approaches to product quality.
- Understand the difference between fitness-for-use and conformance to specification.
- Understand that often product quality can be broken down into multiple attributes.
- Understand that product quality is always the result of a trade-off.
- Understand that the transcendent approach to quality may well be the starting point for starting to understand what stakeholder expect from Agile product quality.
- Be able to related the various product quality approaches to Agile software development.



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