Call for Papers:

Special issue on "Towards a unified view of agile software development"

Journal of Systems and Software

Almost ten years have elapsed since the articulation of the agile manifesto. The intervening period has witnessed significant changes in the practice of software development. A number of agile practices and methods, such as pair programming, test-driven development, feature driven development, kanban, planning poker, coding dojos, kaizen, extreme programming, Scrum, Crystal Clear and lean development, are in use in companies. Despite the tremendous strides that we have made, there is yet no clear understanding of the efficacy of such practices. The current situation is reminiscent of the early days of object-orientation (OO) when practitioners had to choose from a perplexing array of methods and practices, with no apparent consensus in the field to guide their actions. As we approach the tenth anniversary of the agile manifesto (February, 2011), it would be worthwhile for scholars and practitioners to examine the myriad changes that have occurred in software development.

In particular, it is important for us to address several questions, including the following: Has the proliferation of methods, practices, tools and techniques taken us away from the ideals originally articulated in the manifesto? Has there been a change/evolution in the principles and ideals in the manifesto? Can we discern an underlying unified theme across these methods and practices? Does the evolution of ideas share patterns of similarity with epistemological advances in other relevant fields?

For this special issue, we would like to invite contributions that critically reflect on the current status of research and practice in agile development. In particular, we would like contributions questioning and exploring the theoretical underpinnings of agile and lean development and the agile manifesto. Theoretical articles must include some empirical evaluation or substantive discussion of implications for practice.

Submissions

Articles can either be submitted directly to the special issue, or be selected for the special issue from papers submitted to the Agile2011 conference (www.agile2011.org see separate call for papers). For direct submission, articles must be formatted according to Journal of Systems and Software guidelines: (http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/journaldescription.cws_home/505732/authorinstructions#16001).

Manuscripts must be submitted via the online submission and peer review systems at http://ees.elsevier.com/jss. Follow the submission instructions given on this site. Please select the article type as “Special Issue: Agile Development”.

Key dates

Agile 2011 submission deadline: 25 February 2011
Direct special issue submission starts: 1 July 2011 (the article type “Special Issue: Agile Development” will open for submission)
Direct special issue submission deadline: 1 August 2011
Acceptance/rejection notification: 15 November 2011
Revised manuscripts ready: 1 January 2012

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