

---

# Watered Down Agile Development

Posted by Damon Poole - 2007/05/12 10:27

---

I find myself torn between being a supporter of Agile and being associated with the unprofessional aspects of it. For example, we all (or at least most of us I hope) know that discussing religion and politics in a professional environment is not a good idea. Yet that is often what many discussions about Agile seem like.

Here's an idea that might help in that situation. Next time you find yourself in such a discussion, you could say "hey, let's keep religion out of this" with a smile (or smiley) and try to steer things back to a professional level.

In the end, Agile is either a good idea or it is not and it will be adopted at its own pace in its own way. Trying to force it won't help. Representing it in a professional and appealing way will help.

Some folks complain that Agile is becoming "watered down." Agile may evolve in ways that we as individuals don't care for. Oh well! But if it is a good idea, it will be adopted. It may be that it is adopted in a watered down fashion. Oh well! If it is adopted in a watered down fashion world-wide, that's actually progress. From that will come the next wave of adoption. And so it goes.

Consider refactoring and continuous integration. These are very widely adopted practices and aren't really even associated with Agile by many (most?) of the people using them, yet they did originate with Agile. You could say that people that are using only those practices are using "watered down" Agile. Is that a bad thing? I would say it is a very good thing. It provides more support for adoption of additional practices and helps to accelerate adoption of Agile in general.

What do you think? Which Agile practices have you adopted and why? Are you a fan, or just going along?

Cheers!

Damon Poole  
CTO, AccuRev  
blog at <http://damonpoole.blogspot.com>

=====