



## Special Announcement - Logistics

**APLN Houston** monthly meetings are at **Sysco**. Networking is at 6 PM, program from 6:30-7:30.

Food provided for the January meeting by **TekSystems**



## Events

**1/21/2010 - APLNH Chapter Meeting 6:00pm**

**Beyond Scope, Schedule, and Cost: Rethinking Performance Measures for Agile Development**

A Business Week article proclaimed, "There is no more Normal." With businesses in the throes of pervasive change, the traditional emphasis on "following the plan with minimal changes" must be supplanted by "adapting the plan to inevitable changes." If agile development practices are about focusing on and delivering customer value, then how can adherence to traditional scope, schedule, and cost be a good way to measure performance? It can't. Jim explains the need to move beyond the classic Iron Triangle measures to focus agile software development success on value, quality, and constraints. It's not that scope, schedule, and cost are unimportant, but that value and quality are more important. Jim explores the rationale behind moving to new agile performance measures.

**Jim Highsmith, Cutter Consortium** is author of

- *Agile Project Management: Creating Innovative Products*
- *Agile Software Development Ecosystems*
- *Adaptive Software Development: A Collaborative Approach to Managing Complex Systems*



Jim has over thirty years of experience as an IT manager, product manager, project manager, consultant, and software

developer. He is a founding member of the Agile Alliance, and cofounder and first president of the Agile Project Leadership Network.

Please register by 1/20 at: <http://aplnhouston20100121.eventbrite.com/>

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**2/18/10 – APLNH Chapter Meeting – 6:00pm**

**The Agile PMO: Scaling Agile through Adaptive Governance**

How should we scale Agile methods beyond individual projects? How can PMOs avoid being process police and instead truly support Agile teams, enable enterprise rollout of Agile methods, and sustain long-term Agile adoption? Learn how industry leaders are scaling Agile to:

- Support and empower agile teams through training, coaching, and removing obstacles
- Track project portfolios using Agile techniques
- Bring lean discipline to project prioritization
- Move towards a stable teams model of resource management



**Sanjiv Augustine** is the President of LitheSpeed, an innovative Agile and Lean training, consulting and coaching company; and an industry-leading Agile and Lean expert. For over 10

years, Sanjiv has assisted several leading clients adopt Agile methods,

**4/21/2010 (Wed) - Mike Cohn in Houston**

Download videos of Mike's past presentations at [www.mountaingoatsoftware.com/presentations-tag/video-recorded](http://www.mountaingoatsoftware.com/presentations-tag/video-recorded).

**Tyranny of "The Plan"** - Mary Poppendieck [www.infoq.com/presentations/tyranny-of-plan](http://www.infoq.com/presentations/tyranny-of-plan)

## Other Agile Events

**1/20-1/21/2010 - Certified ScrumMaster Training with Sanjiv Augustine - Houston, TX**  
**Also sessions on 2/16-17 and 3/23-24.**

Learn the essential concepts and tools of Scrum, differences between agile processes and traditional "waterfall" methodologies, and how to build a roadmap for adopting. Learn how to lead development teams towards agile operations by: managing product backlogs, planning releases and sprints, tracking and reporting progress, and conducting retrospectives.

Use code **APLN** to get a 20% discount at [http://www.lithespeed.com/CSM\\_Detail.htm](http://www.lithespeed.com/CSM_Detail.htm).

**1/20-1/21/2010 Effective Product Marketing, by Pragmatic Marketing, Austin, TX**

Learn to focus on how customers buy.  
<http://www.pragmaticmarketing.com/seminars/effective-product-marketing>

**1/31/2010 Early registration discount for March Orlando Scrum Gathering 2010**

<http://www.scrumalliance.org/events/105-orlando-scrum-gathering>

**2/3-2/4/2010 - Mike Cohn's Certified Scrum Product Owner Training - Dallas, TX**

Learn how you can shape your product throughout the development cycle.  
<http://www.mountaingoatsoftware.com/training/139-certified-scrum-product-owner>

**2/17-2/19/2010 - Agile Boot Camp, Austin, TX**

For 20% discount use code **VersionOne**.  
[Register here.](#)

**6/14-6/16/10 – PMI Houston Conference, GRB**

## Are you ready for an Agile Renaissance?

Listen to Robbie MacIver and Bryan Campbell on the **Everything Super Talkcast Show** at <http://corpusoptima.com>. Select Episode 5 - Agile.

**Agile Values:** [www.agilemanifesto.org](http://www.agilemanifesto.org)

1. Individuals and interactions over processes & tools, leveraging spirit and ingenuity
2. Working products over documentation, rapidly delivering value

3. Customer collaboration over contract negotiations – fostering a collaborative environment
4. Responding to change over getting stuck working the plan – rapidly incorporating learning as soon as it's occurred.

Getting talented, capable people working in high performance teams produces continuous evolution from learning and feedback loops. Agile businesses stop worrying about the risk of making a mistake and concentrate on not missing opportunities. The results are reduced product cycle times and creation of value across the entire organization! [Click here to read more.](#)

## December Meeting



Oracles, Moles, Naysayers, Organization Drivers. How do your team members deal with Information versus Execution? How can you help them across the Information and Execution gaps? Thanks to Don Minnick for returning to APLN Houston with another thought provoking presentation helping us understand that managing the human intellect to deliver useful information, products and services is the critical executive skill of the 21st century.

Don's presentation slides are now available: <http://aplnhouston.org/documents/Presentations/Minnick-OraclesAndMoles-20091210.pdf>.

Thanks to **Stephen**



**Ebaugh** and **Apex Systems Inc**, for generously sponsoring food and refreshments for our December meeting.

## Thanks to Our 2009 Sponsors

Please join APLNH in thanking the following sponsors for their generous support.



APEX provided food for the December Event  
[www.apexsystemsinc.com](http://www.apexsystemsinc.com).



Think Green: Think Waste Management  
([www.wm.com](http://www.wm.com)).



APLNH appreciates **Sysco's** continuing support in hosting our meetings.

**Sponsorship opportunities are available.**

Contact a member of the leadership team or see  
[www.aplnhouston.org/sponsors](http://www.aplnhouston.org/sponsors).

## Helpful Resources

PDF versions of 2009 speaker presentations at  
[www.aplnhouston.org/chapter-meetings/past-meetings](http://www.aplnhouston.org/chapter-meetings/past-meetings)

## Agile software development References

[http://searchsoftwarequality.techtarget.com/topics/0,295493,sid92\\_tax306110,00.html](http://searchsoftwarequality.techtarget.com/topics/0,295493,sid92_tax306110,00.html)

**It Takes a Village: 6 Ways to Fill the Product Owner Role** - Ronica Roth

[http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/sqe/bettersoftware\\_0909/index.php?startid=24#26](http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/sqe/bettersoftware_0909/index.php?startid=24#26)

### APLN Houston Leadership Team

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**Agile Disruptive GTD** -- Putting Agile in perspective from a Futurist's view.

[http://www.alexburns.net/futuristics/2007/10/agile\\_disruptive\\_gtd.html#more](http://www.alexburns.net/futuristics/2007/10/agile_disruptive_gtd.html#more)

## APLN Member Services

### Continuing Certification Requirements

PMPs may file for 1 PDU under Continuing Certification Requirements, "Category 4: Other Providers" for attending APLNH events.

### User Group Discount Programs!

**O'Reilly User Group Program!**

**Pearson Education User Group Program!**

Contact us if you have others to recommend.

For more information on Member services visit:  
<http://aplnhouston.org/member-services>.

## Make Your Voice Heard – Check out Jobs!

Join and participate in our LinkedIn Group today!  
Check out discussions and JOBS Listings



## Volunteer Opportunities

We are looking for a few good volunteers!

- ❖ Newsletter Contributors
  - Articles on real-world agile experiences
  - Book reviews
  - Blog references
- ❖ Event coordinators
  - Program coordination
  - Speaker recruitment
  - Event announcements
  - Check in meeting attendees
  - Traffic control at Sysco.
- ❖ Webmaster
  - Content management

To share your talents and help **APLNH** grow contact a member of the leadership team.

### APLN Houston Newsletter Editor

**Barbara Brown:** [bnbrown@technologytransformation.com](mailto:bnbrown@technologytransformation.com)

Send announcements, book reviews or articles for the APLNH newsletter to [Newsletter@APLNHouston.org](mailto:Newsletter@APLNHouston.org)