

APLN Houston Events

7/15/10 – APLNH Chapter Meeting – 6:00pm

Accelerating Agile Transformation – Reusable Patterns and Solutions

Organizations undergoing Agile Transformation encounter some common obstacles such as silos with misaligned metrics, inaccessible customers and a lack of well defined release content up-front.

With the right training, teams can be equipped with techniques to remove these decelerators. Learn a simple frame-work for Accelerating Agile Transformation and practical techniques you can apply after the session! Three Pillars to be discussed include: Patterns in Change, Patterns in Type, and Patterns in Conflict.



Ravi Verma – CSM, Principal Consultant at SmoothApps, is a Professional Scrum Master, with 11+ years experience delivering multi-million dollar enterprise applications in giants like Cisco, Avaya, HP and Siemens. He has also worked at a startup – Voyence (now part of EMC) and in a mid-sized company – Network Associates (now part of Netscout) and is familiar with the challenges of delivering software in companies of different sizes.



Our thanks to **TekSystems** for their sponsorship of Ravi Verma for this meeting.

8/19/10 - APLN Houston - WITI Houston Joint Meeting - 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Presented in association with the Houston chapter of **Women in Technology International**. (WITI) see

<http://www.witi.com/houston>.

*This meeting has been extended beyond our normal time and will **end at 8:00pm***



Agile Planning: It's About Value

How long with that take? What will that cost? What is that really worth? Although we get asked these questions all the time, answering them with absolute values is hard, rarely accurate as we would like, and sometimes even a little misleading. Agile planning answers these questions in a different way and respects the fact that we often don't know much about a project when we get asked these questions.

Come learn about an evolutionary planning cycle that focuses teams on doing the right work at a reasonable cost, and participate in an on-hands exercise that will help identify the value of the work we take on.

6:00 - 6:30pm - Network while enjoying refreshments provided by **Sysco**.



Robbie Mac Iver, Owner/Principal Consultant of **The Mac Iver Group, LP**, helps organizations understand agile principles and values, and then create collaborative work environments in which agile practices can thrive. Robbie improves teams and processes to achieve visible, predictable results by providing practical, sensible, and effective project leadership.

As Agile Advisor with Corpus Optima, he is incorporating agile principles into the organization's service offerings, delivery methods and internal operations to help clients accelerate the advanced process and culture transformation practices of Superperformance.

Robbie is on the board of directors of the Agile Project Leadership Network (APLN), co-founder of the APLN Houston chapter, and is serving as the Agile Adoption Stage Producer for the Agile2010 conference.

Chapter Meeting Logistics

APLN Houston monthly meetings are at **Sysco**. Networking is at 6 PM, program from 6:30-7:30. Park in front of **either Sysco** buildings (1370 & 1390 Enclave Parkway). If front lots are full, park on the street along Forkland Drive and walk around the street to the front entrance of 1390.

8/5/10 – APLN-to-Go – 5:30 - 7:00pm

The 25 Minute Sprint: The Pomodoro Technique and Agility

In every aspect of our lives things are moving and changing faster. There's more to do and still only 24 hours in the day.

Everyone is playing multiple different roles. We rarely get the time we think we need, and yet we still have to get things done. We have all become jugglers of time, some of us experts, most of us just hoping we don't drop too many of the important balls.

Every once in a while someone comes up with a novel perspective on how to solve challenging problems. The Pomodoro Technique relies on the Agile concepts of a simple process, simple tools, sustainable pace and reflection to manage time more effectively. This session will introduce the core concepts of the Pomodoro Technique and include an exercise in which everyone will participate in a Pomodoro/sprint.

Tony Akins has spent over 25 years in the software industry in R&D, direct marketing and sales, product development, training and development, project management, process improvement and technology transition. He is currently the Director of Software at Behavioral Recognition Systems overseeing the day-to-day operations of Research, Development, Quality Engineering and Deployment staffs. Previously Tony was a Senior Consultant at Valtech Technologies where he provided expertise in agile project management.

Please join us in thanking **PROS** for their generous support in hosting tonight's meeting.



3100 Main Street, Suite #900 - Houston, TX.
at the corner of Elgin and Main (HCC building).
Free parking in the lot across the street.

Registration:
<http://aplnhctogo20100805.eventbrite.com>

APLN National Website

<http://aplhn.org> (Note: there is a Houston group)

Other Agile Events

Agile 2010 Relocated

In an amazing display of agility Agile2010 was relocated due to the flooding in Nashville. The conference will now be held on the same dates, **August 9-13**, at The Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Resort in **Orlando, FL**. See <http://agile2010.org>.

8/17-18/12/09 –Lithespeed ScrumMaster Workshop – Houston, TX

Join **Arlen Bankston** for this two-day ScrumMaster certification course that provides everything you need to begin leading or participating in a Scrum team. On completion, participants are registered as Certified ScrumMasters (CSMs).

Use the discount code '**APLN**' (without the quotes) to receive a 15% discount at http://www.lithespeed.com/CSM_Detail.htm

9/27-28/12/09 – Winnow Certified ScrumMaster Workshop – Houston, TX

This class is suitable for those practicing or looking to practice the art of the ScrumMaster, but is highly valuable for anyone involved in Scrum (Managers, Team Members, Product Managers, etc.). While no experience is necessary, attendees should have some familiarity with Scrum.

Use discount code **APLNDIS** to get a \$150 discount from Winnow Management.
<http://winnowmanagement.com/classes.php>

Practical Product Management 10/18-10/20/2010 – Houston, TX

Learn to analyze critical product management and marketing activities in detail using the [Pragmatic Marketing Framework](#). For registration details see <http://aplnhouston.org/>

On-line Resources

APLN Houston Speaker presentations

PDF copies of 2009-2010 **APLN Houston** presentations: www.aplnhouston.org/chapter-meetings/past-meetings.

Recent Meetings

Lean Program Management: Principles, Practices and Tools for Accelerating Value Delivery - June 17, 2010



Which of the **Seven Wastes** is slowing you down the most? Perhaps using the **Five Whys** root cause analysis will help you determine that; or maybe **Value Stream Mapping** can help identify all the non-value add steps in your process. Many thanks to **Dr. Jerry Julian** of the [Julian Advisory Group](#) for extending his stay in Houston an extra day to come talk to us about **Lean Program Management**.


We also want to congratulate **Elizabeth Kinyanjui** and **Bill Doescher** who won copies of Jerry's new book *Facilitating Project Performance Improvement*.



June APLN Houston to Go



Thanks to **Sanjiv Augustine** of [LitheSpeed](#) for an enlightening evening that introduced us to Agile Methods. Sanjiv gave us some great information on the concepts and principles of agility as well as things to think about in starting down the adoption path.

 Our thanks also go to **Terry O'Donohue** and the team at **Hewitt Associates** for making this **APLN Houston To Go** event a great success. They provided a great facility, to say nothing about *pizza*, and conducted our first experiment into making our programs available to a remote audience.

APLN Houston Volunteers

If you would like to get involved please contact Jaynee at volunteers@APLNHouston.org.

See <http://aplnhouston.org/volunteers>



Thanks to Our 2010 Sponsors

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



APLNH appreciates **Sysco's** continuing support in hosting our meetings again in 2010.

Sponsorship opportunities are available

Contact a member of the leadership team at leaders@alpnhouston.org or see our new Sponsorship Program information at: www.aplnhouston.org/sponsors.

Growing APLN Houston in 2010 APLN Houston Midyear Checkpoint

The APLNH leadership team met to conduct a retrospective on 2010 progress. Membership has exceeded 600 and meeting attendance has grown to over 60, with a high of 85. APLNH has incorporated, defined a business model and created a sponsorship program. We formalized our **APLN Houston to Go** program and held our first joint training event [Innovation Games for Agile Teams](#).

Using some of the Innovation Games, we selected three work streams for our current sprint: Sponsorship, Participation and Speakers. The backlog adds Events, Technology & Venue. Volunteers are encouraged to join a team.

APLNH Book Club

If you like to read and want to keep up with the latest agile innovations, **APLNH** can help. We have a collection of the latest releases available. Stop at the **Book Club** table during the networking session at the next meeting.

Select a book to read and provide a book review for the website and newsletter. You may keep the book after you've submitted your review or return it to our library for use by others.

APLN Houston Newsletter Editors

Barbara Brown: bnbrown@technologytransformation.com

Ron Whitebread: Whitebread.Ron@corp.sysco.com

Send announcements, Agile events or articles to
Newsletter@APLNHouston.org