



APLN
Agile Project Leadership Network

Houston

October 2009

Newsletter

Special Announcement - Logistics

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

Please help us speed check in by registering for the meeting at least 24 hrs in advance.

Events

Mark Your Calendars! Special Events!

Join **APLN Houston** and **DISYS** for two **Special Events**



hosted by **Waste Management**, 1021 Main.

10/1/09 APLNH Special Event – 5:30- 7:00 pm

Test Driven Development



Naresh Jain is an Independent Consultant and Vice-Chairman of the Agile Software Community of India. Naresh is a software craftsman working as a Quality and Community Evangelist for

Directi. As an independent consultant, he helps software organizations deliver quality software solutions using Agile and Lean thinking.

Test Driven Development (TDD) is one of the most profound eXtreme Programming practices, which has been adopted by nearly all the Agile methods. Over the last decade, developers have discovered just how much more confidently and faster they can go by writing tests first! In this interactive tutorial, you'll learn the general thought process and the steps involved during a typical Test Driven session.

For location and registration details please visit at: <http://aplnhouston20091001.eventbrite.com/>

11/4/09 APLNH Special Event – 5:30- 7:00 pm

Agile Estimating and Planning for Scrum

Peter Borsella will focus on user stories, relative effort and story points, Planning Poker and tracking velocity to help teams understand the basic expectations of Estimating and Planning within the Scrum framework.

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10/22/09 – APLNH Chapter Meeting – 6:00pm

Due to a schedule conflict with Sysco's auditorium, the October meeting of **APLN Houston** is moving to the 4th Thursday.

Petris: An Agile Experience Report

Join **Prakash Roopani**, Development Manager at **Petris Technology. Inc.** (www.petris.com) and his team members **Shaji John**, Senior Technical Architect and **Sejal Desai**, Quality Assurance Specialist as they talk first hand about how they are succeeding with Agile practices. Share their experience with the agile process, practical insights and process customization/extension that helped them to successfully deliver two commercial products in six months. Register at: <http://aplnhouston20091022.eventbrite.com/>

11/19/09 – APLNH Chapter Meeting – 6:00pm

Evangelizing Agile Inside YOUR Company

Roy Carnes, **OutSystems** shares valuable techniques for communicating the business value of Agile and how to help gain and strengthen support for it inside your company

12/10/09 – APLNH Chapter Meeting – 6:00pm

“Oracles” and “Moles”: How to Manage Key Performers across the Knowing-Doing Gap

Donald J. Minnick returns on a special date.

To register for the latest APLNH events see:
www.eventbrite.com/org/106338193?s=1202352

Other Agile Events

9/26/09 – Houston TechFest 2009 – 8am – 6pm

The 2009 TechFest will be held at University of Houston, University Center. Look for the **APLNH** members assisting with the Agile track.
<http://houstontechfest.com/dotnetnuke/Home/tabid/37/Default.aspx>

Maturing Your Organization's Agile Adoption
by Bryan Campbell and Robbie Mac Iver

Going From Good to Great in the IT Project World
by Dave Guerra

What's This Thing Called Agility?
by Robbie Mac Iver

Building the Business Case for IT Projects
by Barbara Brown

10/7/2009 - The Superperforming CEO: Liberating the Promise Within

The Superperforming CEO bears an astonishing resemblance to the pattern of the Agile Project Leader: This is a pattern of Servant Leader - of David, not Goliath.
<http://corpusoptima.com/seminars/the-superperforming-ceo>



10/7-10/8/2009 - Transitioning from Waterfall to Agile, ASPE - Austin, TX

Plan a successful transition from traditional software development approaches. Capitalize on long standing and highly successful industry methods that historically support agile concepts.

10/14-10/15/09 - Certified ScrumMaster Training with Sanjiv Augustine - Houston, TX Additional dates 12/8-9

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

11/5-11/6/09 – Winnow Certified Scrum Master Workshop – Houston, TX

Peter Borsella's CSM class is suitable for those practicing or looking to practice the art of the Scrum Master, 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 **APLN\$D** to get a \$150 discount from Winnow Management.

For a Winnow Management course list see
<http://www.winnowmanagement.com/classes.php>

11/9-11/10/09 - Agile & High-Speed Software Testing, ASPE – Houston, TX

Transition from traditional test practices to an Agile testing approach. Learning the goals of Agile will help you transition, implement and monitor testing in the High Speed Agile Testing environment

Use discount code **VersionOne** to get a 20% discount on ASPE registration at
<http://www.aspesdlc.com/courses/4815>.

11/11-11/12/2009 – ASPE Agile Project Management, Austin TX

Learn to lead agile software projects that adapt to change & discovery, improve collaboration, drive innovation and deliver on-time business values. For a 20% discount register at 877-800-5221 using code **VersionOne**. See
<http://www.aspe-sdlc.com/courses/4170/>

1/11-1/15/2010 - Advanced Superperformance Workshops: "Super Projects Boot Camp" with Dave Guerra – Houston

APLNH members receive a \$100 discount on each segment with code **SUPERAPLN**. See
<http://corpusoptima.com/seminars/super-projects-boot-camp/>

2/3-2/4/2010 Certified Scrum Product Owner Training - Dallas, TX

<http://www.mountaingoatsoftware.com/training/139-certified-scrum-product-owner>

CSM Requirements change

Starting Oct. 1, 2009 those who wish to obtain CSM certification will be required to attend a minimum two-day course and pass an online certification exam within 90 days of the course.

Collaborative Leadership: A Secret to Agile Success

Watch our September speaker **Pollyanna Pixton's** keynote address to the **2008 Agile Development Practices Conference**.

<http://www.stickyminds.com/Media/Video/Detail.aspx?WebPage=128>

More from our Speakers:

Stand Back and Deliver: Accelerating Business Agility

Pollyanna Pixton; **Niel Nickolaisen**; **Todd Little** and **Kent McDonald** provide leadership tools for Agile organizations.
<http://my.safaribooksonline.com/9780321617064>
<http://accelinnova.com/booklogin.php>



The Dancing Agile Elephant Meets Collaborative Leadership

Thank you to **Pollyanna Pixton** and **Sue McKinney**. View the September presentation at www.aplnhouston.org/documents/Presentations/Pxiton-McKinney-IBM-Transformation-20090917.ppt

Webinars

IT Metrics & Productivity Institute - CAI Webinars

9/30/09 - 10AM CDT Agile Projects - Beginning with the End in Mind by Bob Galen

10/7/09 - Business Process Architecture Management: Methodologies And Best Practices by Dr. Shawn Clark

10/9/09 - Requirements by Collaboration: Defining Product Needs on Large Agile Projects by Ellen Gottesdiener

10/13/09 - Sources of Project Failure: Leaders and Managers by Stephen Cohen

Registration at www.itmpi.org/webinars.

Agile Leadership Summit

11/9-11/13/09 – Co-located at Agile Development Practices Conference – Orlando, FL

Join veterans from small and large companies who have led agile teams and organizations with new, innovative leadership styles.

Practical Development, Agile Testing, Kanban, Transition to Agile, User Stories, Agile PM. See www.sqe.com/agiledevpractice

SQE Training offers eSoftware Tester Certification and on site Agile development and testing courses. See www.sqetraining.com

10/5-10/9, 2009 Starwest Software Testing Conference – Anaheim, CA

For details, see www.sqe.com/starwest.

10/14-10/15/09 – Advanced Lean-Agile Project Management for Scrum Masters – Bellevue, WA

www.netobjectives.com/course-schedule/lean-agile-pm-scrum-masters-oct-2009-bellevue

Books & Articles-of-the-Month

Donald Minnick's presentation Managing the Human Dynamics of Change is now available!

Thanks Don for a very insightful and entertaining presentation. Look for Don again at our December 10 joint meeting with West Side PMI. www.aplnhouston.org/documents/Presentations/Minnick-ChangeManagement-2009-08-20.ppt

See Don's new book, **Surviving Downsizing**.

Lean-Agile Software Development: Achieving Enterprise Agility

The first book on Lean-Agile to tell you how to use Lean to transition an entire organization to Agile methods. by Alan Shalloway, Guy Beaver, and Jim Trott.

www.netobjectives.com/resources/books/lean-agile-software-development

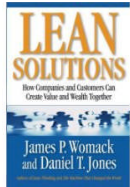
Lean is more than a set of tools.

www.netobjectives.com/blogs/Lean-Is-Not-Just-A-Set-Of-Tools



Lean Solutions: How Companies and Customers Can Create Value and Wealth Together

by James P. Womack and Daniel T. Jones, The Lean Enterprise Institute, Inc. 'an education, publishing, and research "do" tank.' See <http://www.lean.org>.



Clever ideas about applying lean, JIT manufacturing successes all along the value chain in the customer service, provisioning and delivery side, not just backwards down the supply chain.

They suggest that reducing cost in service and retail come not from hiring the cheapest employees and reducing the time per task, but in doing the right thing, the first time, every time. If the task repeated over and over, quicker and quicker, with a lower paid employee has zero value to your user, to what high-value task should this cost actually be going? End-to-end lean analyses push consumption chains towards more sustainable solutions. A thought provoking and compelling alternative.

Womack and Jones run through typical service and buying experiences with a rough calculation of the cost of waste in the system from the hold time making an appointment to the cost of service technicians waiting for parts while a half-completed item fills the available workspace. They also look at the cost to buyers, retailers and producers of stock-outs on popular items while shelves overflow with deeply-discounted, unwanted leftovers consumers are settling for.

Lean principals: give the end-user what he needs, when he needs it, where he needs it, in a complete solution. Ruthlessly remove process steps that don't support that. Lean adds a necessary level of complexity to business analysis by measuring the true cost of processes, goods and services end-to-end and cradle-to-grave, including steps outside a business unit. IT systems have the data, but often only apply analysis to a tiny silo. True BI solutions will be more sophisticated and collaborative from raw material supplier to consumer to recycler to provide optimized solutions reducing total cost of ownership. Lean thinking can result in improvements in any process chain as participants concentrate on replacing steps that add little value with solutions that users will be happy to pay for.

Lots of opportunity for IT to provide information users need, when and where they want it, meeting real needs at lower TCO.

- Barbara Brown

The Agile PMO: Bridging the Divide

This recent white paper explores the gap between the effort-based metrics PMOs commonly use to monitor project success and the results based indicators they should rely on:

- *Structure projects around business feature groups delivered to users in working iterations.*
- *Define progress in terms of business needs met and not technical tasks performed, so that we measure in terms of results, not effort.*
- *Structure projects to track and forecast progress in these terms to have unambiguous line-of-sight into what a team is actually doing.*
- *Measure meaningful software attributes to build strong, clear metrics of underlying quality.*
- *Automate metrics collection to simplify the burden on delivery teams and approach real-time insight.*

https://www1.vtrenz.net/imarkownerfiles/ownerassets/1013/WP_Agile%20PMO_final.pdf

Agile Videos from Mountain Goat Software

www.mountaingoatsoftware.com/presentations-tag/video-recorded

See Mike Cohn's blog at blog.mountaingoatsoftware.com

Door Prizes!

You must pre-register and be present to win. Congratulations to our September winners.

Lithespeed class discount certificates went to Terry O' Donohue and Balaji Madana. Thanks to Sanjiv Augustine.

Thanks to **TEKsystems** for a Best Buy Card – won by Lori Baumann.

Stand Back and Deliver: Accelerating Business Agility by Pollyanna Pixton and Todd Little won by Linda Bonnet, Philippe Flichy and Bryan Campbell.

Copies of **Jim Highsmith's Agile Project Management, Creating Innovative Products** went to Ravi Patil and Paul Ambro.

Winnow Management class discount certificate received by Gordon Reid. Planning Poker cards winners: Leila Ramsey, A. Lester Buck III, Kim Payne, Jeffrey Johnson, and Pankaj Rana.

Thanks to Our Sponsors

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



Object Information Services supplied the Sept. meal. Visit: <http://objectinformation.com>.



DISYS is bringing Naresh Jain to Houston for the

October Special Event. (www.DISYS.com)

Waste Management is providing the Oct 1 meeting venue and refreshments. Think Green: Think Waste Management (www.wm.com).

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

Triad Resources provided a cake for **APLNH's** September Anniversary –yum!

Thanks to **TEKsystems** for a Best Buy gift card as a Sept. door prize. (www.teksystems.com).



Sanjiv Augustine offered two seats at a 50% discount for CSM or CPO classes



Thanks to **Peter Borsella** for a \$500 discount on one seat at his next CSM class

Pearson User Group provided 2 copies of **Jim Highsmith's Agile Project Management, Creating Innovative Products.**

Sponsorship opportunities are available.

Contact a member of the leadership team or see www.aplnhouston.org/sponsors.

APLN Houston Leadership Team

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APLN Member Services

Continuing Certification Requirements

PMPs may file for 1 PDU under Continuing Certification Requirements' "Category 4: Other Providers."

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



Search the groups directory for APLN Houston.

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

Thank you Jeff Osborne, Jean Respass and David McQueen for helping with the September check in desk.

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

APLN Houston Newsletter Editor

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Send announcements, book reviews or articles for the APLNH newsletter to Newsletter@APLNHouston.org