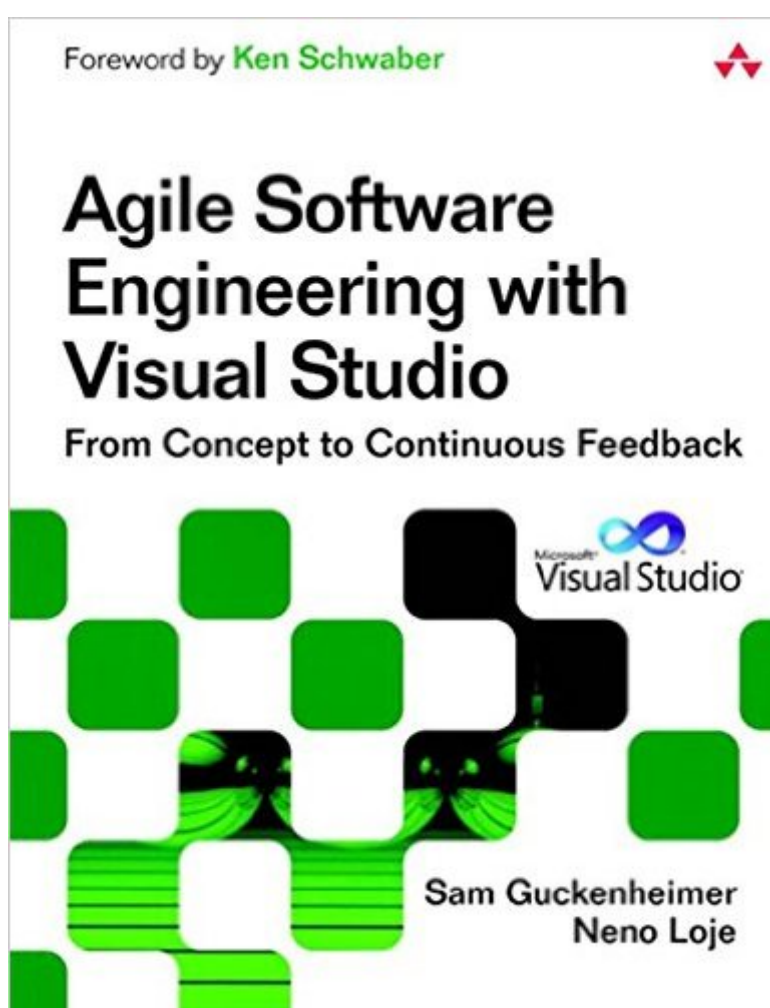


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Agile Software Engineering With Visual Studio: From Concept To Continuous Feedback (2nd Edition) (Microsoft Windows Development Series)



Synopsis

Using agile methods and the tools of Visual Studio 2010, development teams can deliver higher-value software faster, systematically eliminate waste, and increase transparency throughout the entire development lifecycle. Now, Microsoft Visual Studio product owner Sam Guckenheimer and leading Visual Studio implementation consultant Neno Loje show how to make the most of Microsoft's new Visual Studio 2010 Application Lifecycle Management (ALM) tools in your environment. This book is the definitive guide to the application of agile development with Scrum and modern software engineering practices using Visual Studio 2010. You'll learn how to use Visual Studio 2010 to empower and engage multidisciplinary, self-managing teams and provide the transparency they need to maximize productivity. Along the way, Guckenheimer and Loje help you overcome every major impediment that leads to stakeholder dissatisfaction—from mismatched schedules to poor quality, blocked builds to irreproducible bugs, and technology silos to geographic silos. Coverage includes:

- Accelerating the flow of value to customers in any software project, no matter how large or complex
- Empowering high-performance software teams and removing overhead in software delivery
- Automating burndowns and using dashboards to gain a real-time, multidimensional view of quality and progress
- Using Visual Studio 2010 to reduce or eliminate open repro bugs
- Automating deployment and virtualizing test labs to make continuous builds deployable
- Using Test Impact Analysis to quickly choose the right tests based on recent code changes
- Working effectively with sources, branches, and backlogs across distributed teams
- Sharing code, build automation, test, project and other data across .NET and Java teams
- Uncovering hidden architectural patterns in legacy software, so you can refactor changes more confidently
- Scaling Scrum to large, distributed organizations

Whatever your discipline, this book will help you use Visual Studio 2010 to focus on what really matters: building software that delivers exceptional value sooner and keeps customers happy far into the future.

Foreword by Ken Schwaber

It is my honor to write a foreword for Sam's book, *Agile Software Delivery with Visual Studio*. Sam is both a practitioner of software development, as well as a scholar. I have worked with Sam for the last two years to merge Scrum with modern engineering practices and an excellent toolset, Microsoft's VS 2010. We are both indebted to Aaron Bjork of Microsoft, who developed the Scrum template that instantiates Scrum in VS 2010 through the Scrum Template. I do not want Scrum to be prescriptive. I left many holes, such as what as the syntax and organization of the Product Backlog, the engineering practices that turned Product Backlog items into a potentially shippable increment, and the magic that would create self-organizing teams. Sam has superbly described one way of

filling in these holes in his book. He describes the techniques and tooling, as well as the rationale of the approach that he prescribes. He does this in detail, with scope and humor. Since I have worked with Microsoft since 2004 and Sam since 2009 on these practices and tooling, I am delighted. Our first launch was a course, the Professional Scrum Developer .NET course, that taught developers how to use solid increments using modern engineering practices on VS 2010 – working in self-organizing, cross-functional teams. Sam’s book is the bible to this course and more, laying it all out in detail and philosophy. If you are on a Scrum Team building software with .NET technologies, this is the book for you. If you are using Java, this book is compelling enough to read anyway, and maybe worth switching to .NET. When we devised and signed the Agile Manifesto in 2001, our first value was “Individuals and interactions over processes and tools.” Well, we have the processes and tools nailed for the Microsoft environment. In Sam’s book, we have something developers, who are also people, can use to understand the approach and value of the processes and tools. Now the really hard work, people. After twenty years of being treated as resources, becoming accountable, creative, responsible people is hard. Our first challenge will be the people who manage the developers. They could use the metrics from the VS 2010 tooling to micro-manage the processes and developers, squeezing the last bit of creativity out and leaving Agility flat. Or, they could use the metrics from the tools to understand the challenges facing the developers. They could then coach and lead them to a better, more creative and productive place. This is the challenge of any tool. It may be excellent, but how it is used will determine its success. Thanks for the book, Sam. Praise for Agile Software Engineering with Visual Studio – Agile dominates projects increasingly from IT to product and business development, and Sam Guckenheimer and Neno Loje provide pragmatic context for users seeking clarity and specifics with this book. Their knowledge of past history and current practice, combined with acuity and details about Visual Studio’s agile capabilities, enable a precise path to execution. Yet their voice and advice remain non-dogmatic and wise. Their examples are clear and relevant, enabling a valuable perspective to those seeking a broad and deep historical background along with a definitive understanding of the way in which Visual Studio can incorporate agile approaches.” Melinda Ballou, Program Director, Application Lifecycle Management and Executive Strategies Service, International Data Corporation (IDC) – Sam Guckenheimer and Neno Loje have forgotten more about software development processes than most development “gurus” ever knew, and that’s a good thing! In Agile Software Engineering with Visual Studio, Sam and Neno distill the essence of years of hard-won experience and hundreds of pages of process theory into what really matters – the techniques that high performance software teams use to get stuff done. By combining

these critical techniques with examples of how they work in Visual Studio, they created a de-facto user guide that no Visual Studio developer should be without.ââJeffrey Hammond, Principal Analyst, Forrester Research

ââIf you employ Microsoftâs Team Foundation Server and are considering Agile projects, this text will give you a sound foundation of the principles behind its agile template and the choices you will need to make. The insights from Microsoftâs own experience in adopting agile help illustrate challenges with scale and the issues beyond pure functionality that a team needs to deal with. This book pulls together into one location a wide set of knowledge and practices to create a solid foundation to guide the decisions and effective transition, and will be a valuable addition to any team managerâs bookshelf.ââThomas Murphy, Research Director, Gartner

ââThis book presents software practices you should want to implement on your team and the tools available to do so. It paints a picture of how first class teams can work, and in my opinion, is a must read for anyone involved in software development. It will be mandatory reading for all our consultants.ââClaude Remillard, President, InCycle

ââThis book is the perfect tool for teams and organizations implementing agile practices using Microsoftâs Application Lifecycle Management platform. It proves disciplined engineering and agility are not at odds; each needs the other to be truly effective.ââDavid Starr, Scrum.org

ââSam Guckenheimer and Neno Loje have written a very practical book on how Agile teams can optimize their practices with Visual Studio. It describes not only how Agile and Visual Studio work, but also the motivation and context for many of the functions provided in the platform. If you are using Agile and Visual Studio, this book should be a required read for everyone on the team. If you are not using Agile or Visual Studio, then reading this book will describe a place that perhaps you want to get to with your process and tools.ââDave West, Analyst, Forrester Research

ââSam Guckenheimer and Neno Loje are leading authorities on agile methods and Visual Studio. The book you are holding in your hand is the authoritative way to bring these two technologies together. If you are a Visual Studio user doing agile, this book is a must read.ââDr. James A. Whittaker, Software Engineering Director Google

ââAgile development practices are a core part of modern software development. Drawing from our own lessons in adopting agile practices at Microsoft, Sam Guckenheimer and Neno Loje not only outline the benefits, but also deliver a hands-on, practical guide to implementing those practices in teams of any size. This book will help your team get up and running in no time!ââJason Zander, Corporate Vice President, Microsoft Corporation

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Customer Reviews

I own the first version of this book and was looking forward to the second version. I would say if you want to get familiar with doing Scrum with TFS this is the book you want. It really does not cover the other templates at all. I am not saying that is bad, but it is not what I expected or wanted. I already have read enough on Scrum to last me a lifetime. I wanted to see more on the other templates. All that said, if you have not had the opportunity to get familiar with Scrum this is a great place to get started, especially if you use TFS. The book starts out with an introduction to agile, Scrum, and Visual Studio. It then digs into Scrum and TFS with chapters on Product Ownership, Running the Sprint, Architecture, Development, Build and Lab, Test, Lessons Learned at Microsoft Developer Division, and Continuous Feedback. My favorite chapters were Development, Build and Lab, and Test. The author did a great job of showing all the different features available in TFS and Visual Studio that enable continuous integration, automating testing, and detecting programming errors early. The chapters go into enough detail to give you a really good understanding of the tools available and when to use them. The architecture chapter did a good job of showing how to take advantage of the tools in Visual Studio for reverse engineering existing applications. It does not however show you how to use them to architect an application. Instead the author plays the "Emerging Architecture" trump card, and writes it off to it not being needed in agile processes. I guess this is ok, because the tools in Visual Studio are not ready for prime time when it comes to designing an Architecture. They are good for reverse engineering an application.

Agile software development methodologies have been proven on projects large and small. Nowadays methodology of choice is Scrum. It empowers multidisciplinary teams to successfully implement complex software and ensures the continuous flow of value through the development process. This book will teach you how to successfully implement Scrum using integrated set of tools from Microsoft Visual Studio 2010 (VS) and the Team Foundation Server 2010 (TFS) and create automated process maximizing flow of value. In addition to the usual sprint and daily cycles, TFS based implementation of such process also exhibits micro cycles like check in and test. Ensuring the flow by making handoffs between team members as efficient as possible, by automating quality enforcing steps i.e. done's and gathering metrics without overhead at every cycle are cornerstones of this efficient process. The book goes beyond teaching you how to apply Scrum using VS and TFS. Reinforcing the flow of value by introducing removal of waste (bug debt, partially implemented features, unfinished code etc.) impeding the flow and transparency pinpointing the weak spots in the process, further ensure success of the development project. Guckenheimer and Loje teach how to identify different types of waste and deal with them. They do a great job explaining how to read different reports and analyze dashboards to gain real-time insight in progress, quality and other aspects of your project. VS and TFS aim at empowering the whole team. Architects can analyze legacy code or continuously validate the current architecture with every daily build using layer diagram. Developers will learn how to write clean code from the beginning and detect errors early.

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