

Preface

Principles of agile software development have a large impact on how software is developed. Some have characterized the change towards agile development as a paradigm shift, leading the focus to topics that have not been addressed or understood in traditional development.

It is therefore important to address what defines and characterizes agile development, what are the historical roots? How do the different principles, processes and methods work in practice, how does agile development affect various groups who are participating in software development? What new challenges arise when using agile development, and what challenges will the methods be unable to solve?

The transition to agile software development has been driven by practitioners, more or less informed by research results, mainly from fields not traditionally focusing on software development. However, researchers focusing on agile software development have a role in developing an understanding of how agile development methods work. Further, why they do or do not work, and in which situations or environment they work better or worse.

This book seeks to show the current state of research on agile software development through an introduction and ten invited contributions on some of the main research fields and by some of the main researchers. The chapters both show the main results in each subfield, and in addition explain what these results mean to practitioners as well as for future research in the field.

The book is aimed at reflective practitioners and researchers, and we hope the book also can serve for graduate courses at universities.

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