Status Report

The Agile Team

March 4, 2013

SYST 699

As of the week of March 4th, the Agile team’s project efforts are taking a new direction than the approach that was proposed. The change in direction comes from one-on-one discussion with the project sponsor on their expectations from the project. The project sponsor had expressed that instead of a Boeing specific approach, they would like the team to focus on researching how systems engineering documentation from a V-model development cycle is affected by using an Agile development cycle in a more generic sense.

In specific, Boeing would like to understand how system engineering documentation work fits within the Agile framework in terms of schedule, the associated cost, and most importantly the quality. Quality is defined in this context as the type and content of the documentation in comparison to the documentation that would have been generated from a traditional development model.

Our aim so far has been to get the proposal approved by Boeing and move forward with the project. The project was to compare and contrast Agile Software Development process vs. the more traditional process in terms of cost, schedule and quality. We approached the problem to produce an Earned Value Management type comparison between specific projects using different types of Software developmental process. After two weeks of interaction to Boeing, we realized they were more interested in a general comparison and contrast between Agile and traditional processes. To be more specific, they were interested in the cost, schedule, and quality of the systems engineering products being produced by using different types of software development process.

 As the customer’s direction seem to focus more on the “quality” aspect of the problem, we have solicited input on the sponsor’s definition of how to measure quality. The sponsor defined the measurement of quality as “how many changes were made to the document after the initial work on the document.” The team will discuss with the sponsor this *Thursday afternoon 7th of March 2013* a value system placed on different types of changes in order to develop a framework for evaluating cost and schedule impacts. The sponsor had suggested that they will supply us with assumed cost and schedule data due to the fact that they do not have and do not wish to use Boeing’s own data for the project.

Due to the direction change of our project, which is based upon sponsor feedback, we have made significant changes to our planned work. While our plans may continue to be somewhat dynamic, we now have a much more definitive first steps and goals in mind. In terms of the comparison between Agile and Traditional Systems Engineering on software projects, we are going to begin by developing a comparison of the documentation produced.

Boeing’s primary concern is whether Agile software development even results in having the same documentation as traditional software development. We plan to begin this analysis by documenting the systems engineering accompanying the typical traditional software development process. Next would be to examine the same development period, but focusing on how Agile development would alter the process. The goal is to establish the artifacts created in both cases. Once the artifacts are defined, a comparison would then be performed to determine any key differences.

Also newly developed is our approach to examining the quality of documentation. The method is simplistic in nature, by dynamic in practice. We will examine the number of changes that have to be made to a document. Based off of feedback from our sponsor, we will establish a weighted system to address document changes of differing severity.

***Note: Dr. Loerch and Dr. Barry, any comments and feedback on our project so far would be greatly appreciated.***