Vivit TQA SIG Sept 22, 2009 Webinar – Questions and Answers
Mature Agile Development Using HP Quality Center

Number	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Q: Have you any experience with the HP Agile Accelerator for Quality Center? It seems to implement much if not all of what you have presented.	A: During my time at HP, I contributed intensively to the design of agile customizations of Quality Center. So you might well find some concepts in my presentation as well as in the accelerator. Note that the agile accelerator is available for HP QC 10 only. Users of previous versions need to develop their own customization.
2	Q: The User Story icons and Estimated Effort fields look like user customized functions in QC - our version 9.2 does not have these??	A: I presented the User Story as a customized requirement type in QC. The icon in use is available in QC 9.2. The effort estimation fields are customized attributes, for the purpose of managing agile projects in QC. These customization cababilities are available in QC 9.2, but they do not come out of the box, but have to be done by someone.
3	Q: Who in the project team is usualy responsible for the creation of the use stories and is the same person responsible to do the sub task allocation?	A: User stories usually get created by the product owner. If there is an architect on the team, he/she might be responsible to refine it and take responsibility on it. Once a user story ist picked up by a developer for implementation in a cycle this person is then responsible for fleshing out the task and associated estimates.
4	Q: Is the idea for the Business to actually capture requirements to make up the backlog or would this be done by the Business Analyst?	A: In agile world there are new roles: The product owner would be responsible for the product backlog. It is up to the organizational design of the company where the product owner is located.
5	Q: Reference was made to the Workflow is this now going to be a standard in QC10?	A: QC comes with customizable workflow. Accelerator packages are available that include typical customizations for specific usage contexts. The agile accelerator is available for QC 10.
6	Q: How do you determine the allocation of user stories to a sprint?	A: Each user story should have a relative priority to all other user stories. This make up its position in the backlog. User stories for the sprint are taken from the backlog from top to bottom. The team will select as many user stories as it can address during a release. The exact amount is determined by the team's capacity , which is named "velocity" in agile world.
7	Q: How do you determine what type of project/s are good candidates for Agile development versus ones that are not?	A: In principle agile can be applied to any project type. When you start, you should select smaller projects. Larger projects are more challenging also with agile. They might require considerable customizations of agile practices and of HP QC's tool support. For standard maintenance projects (patch release) in mature organizations agile might not provide any advantages.

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8	Q: Isn't that a little bit too much formalism for an agile method?	A: Excellent question. As I outlined, these solutions are just suggestions. Depending on the team's and organization's maturity and constraints you may easily come up with a subset of the techniques. Most of the additions presented here were developed on request of agile teams.
9	Q: Isn't that a little bit too much formalism for an agile method?	A: You might consider to manage new change requests in an agile way. Provide user stories for it, assign a priority, do high-level estimation, allocate for a sprint and develop. Put references to existing documentation in the new user story.
10	Q: Our developers are using JIRA for development task management. Is it possible to use Quality Center for requirements management and testing but use JIRA for defects and development task management?	A: Yes, it is. I have seen implementations based on this approach. However this is a totally different implementation with some advantages and some disadvantages.
11	Q: How often are releases?	A: This totally depends on the business context (internal projects, customer focused project, mass market product, life critical product) ranging from several weeks to years.
12	Q: Can you add anything or point me to a good reference on how to utilize QC with Rally for Agile Development shops?	A: For detailed integration features look up the vendor specs. As QC with its customization capabilites can also offer lots of support for Story management you need to carefully evaluate what works best in your environment. For experiences with this integration I welcome those vivit users to contribute them.
13	Q: How long should the team define a task for a story?	A: Inside a sprint a developer will pick up responsibility for a specific user story. This developer might flesh out the tasks needed to implement the user story. He is also responsible to allocate estimates for it. This is done by a single developer and in parallel with other developers who work on their own stories. Typically this is performed on the first or second day of a sprint and will not exceed half a day.
14	Q: Why are 'Sprints' being used as folders in requirements, we have then as cycles right ?	A: Good question. Teams want to have visual presentations of sprints and doing good filtering. Filter by grouping doesn't work for cycles.
15	Q: How does a Backlog item tied to a User story ?	A: A user story represents a backlog item.
16	Q: Are the Burn down / Burn Up charts available within QC Graphs and Reports? Or they created separately on Excel?	A: No, they are not available out of the box in QC. But they can be created in QC (requires experience level knowledge). Cheaper solution is outside of QC.