Reifer Consultants LLC
Software Economics Newsletter

Happy New Year – We wish everyone the best for new year. May you, your family and colleagues have a healthy and prosperous new year.

Jan 2017 Edition of Software Benchmarking Report to be Issued - The first release of our Software Benchmarking report for 2018 will be issued later this month. *These benchmarks are used by many of our clients as yardsticks for comparison, i.e., to assess one's relative performance and competitiveness.* Each release of our software benchmarking report is updated and improved based on feedback from subscribers. This new edition contains the following changes:

- We continue to enhance our graphics to make it easier for our users to pinpoint information of interest.
- All productivity and cost figures have been updated to reflect the results of our benchmarking analysis using data collected during the 2007 to 2017 timeframe.
- Trend information related to the benchmark data set has been updated using the method of moving averages.
- All of our quality ratings have been revised using the most current data set.
- Our watch list containing technologies that can impact each of our application areas has been updated.

We will continue to publish our software benchmarks twice a year in the January/February and June/July timeframes. These reports will continue to be sold on an annual subscription basis. Substantial university, government and not-for-profit discounts are available for new subscribers. If you would like information about how to enroll in our software benchmarking service, please contact us at info@reifer.com.

We are now a Sole Proprietor – we are pleased to announce that the firm has reformed as a sole proprietorship. Our new contact information is:

Donald Reifer, Consultant
79410 Azahar
La Quinta, CA 92253

Our phone number [(310) 922-7043] and web site (http://www.reifer.com) remain the unchanged.

New Agile-at-Scale Workshop Offered – A highly successful, action-oriented, two-day workshop aimed at improving how agile-at-scale projects are managed is being offered in-house for our clients. This workshop discusses how to setup a collaborative infrastructure that can be used to coordinate, synchronize and maintain visibility into and control over agile teams operating as a collective under a project management group. It builds on popular agile-at-scale frameworks like LeSS and SAFe, and take advantage of Kanban and kaizen concept to reduce waste and improve efficiency.

New Webinar Series Announced – Based on client demand, we are in the process of developing a new webinar series that we will offer for a nominal fee on our web site. Each offering will be short, focused and action-oriented. Webinars that are being developed include the following:
- Agile value streams – how to quantify the benefits
- Managing agile-at-scale enterprises – unveiling the mystery
- Agile software quality – "one team, one approach, build quality in"
- Agile analytics – using your data to maximize your yield

All of our Reports have been Updated and Released – We have revised all of the following agile reports to be up-to-date and consistent in terms of style and content:
- Agile Software Quality – A Quantitative Assessment, Nov 2017.
- Quantitative Analysis of Agile Methods Study: 12 Major Findings, Nov 2017.
- Agile Scaling Findings and Productivity Statistics for Larger Enterprises, Nov 2017.
- Agile Introduction: Are You a Laggard? Nov 2017.
- Size Estimating Approaches for Use with Agile Methods, Nov 2017.
- Agile Estimating: Straightforward and Simple, Nov 2017.
- Agile Metrics and Measurement, Nov 2017.
- Agile Visibility and Control, Nov 2017.
- Agile Rework, Waste Reduction and Technical Debt, Nov 2017.
- Cognitive Computing and Software Development Automation, Nov 2017.

In addition, we have revised the following two other reports that may be of interest to you"
- Firmware Estimation, Nov 2017.
- The Cost of Software/Systems Integration & Test, Nov 2017.

Ordering information is available on our web site at http://www.reifer.com.

Don Reifer's new Agile Book "One Team, One Approach, Build Quality in" Available Soon – Don has written a book on software quality which will be published during the second quarter of next year. The book argues for having agile developers "build quality in" their software products instead of using independent testers to try to find and fix defects during integration and testing. The book's 17 Chapters include:

- Preface by Mike Cohn
- Introduction
- Agile Quality Primer
- Organizing for Quality
- Building Quality Products
- Agile Testing Fundamentals
- Maintaining Product Integrity
- Assuring Quality
- Review Techniques for Agile Practitioners
- Modern Methods that Enhance Quality
- The Role of Lean Kanban and Kaizen
- Acquisition Approaches
- Outsourcing Controls
- Is Quality Free?
- Measuring the Value of Quality
- Issues and Risk Management
- Wrapping it Up
- Ten Open Questions
- Glossary of Terms
- Recommended Web Sites and Readings

Current information about the book and how to get a copy will be posted on our web site along with snippets and articles taken from it.

Web Site Blog Updated – If you have not visited our web site, you should as it is continuously being updated. Besides providing an overview of the firm and its services, the site provides interesting postings and a blog provides much more information about items identified in this newsletter.

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