



From Conversation to Commitment

Cues, clues, and tools for turning application development requirements into actionable work plans

The 2009 ALTERthought Lunch-and-Learn Series

Title: *From Conversations to Commitments:* cues, clues, and tools for turning application development requirements into actionable work plans.

Background: It can be daunting for analyst, architects, and project managers to use business requirements in order to develop actionable and accurate project plans. Traditional approaches include breaking the project down into phases of the systems development life cycle (SDLC) and depending on programmers to help define and discern the activities and tasks required to complete a project. While the Agile Manifesto and Lean concepts are an important toolkit for the day-to-day management of a project, designed to help a team tune itself to its own capabilities and productivity over the life of the project, the application development estimation process still continues to be a dark art. Project Leadership must still answer to those more senior in the organization and those leaders must still answer to the market and investors. Often times, the question they ask is, "When will it be done?" Ultimately, this becomes the seminal question for organizations eager to increase revenue through the marketing of new capabilities.

Objectives:

This seminar is focused on helping analysts, architects, and project managers become more confident using rapid and accurate estimation and planning skills. The seminar serves to bridge the gap between Lean/Agile approaches and the more intensive forecasting needs of organizations of various sizes. In this seminar, participants will

1. Understand the basic structure of a business requirement
2. Learn to listen for keywords in order to help organize the suite of requirements
3. Gain an appreciation for basic use cases and user stories
4. Obtain a basic overview for the use case point methodology for software estimation
5. Appreciate how to frame scope negotiation on a feature-by-feature basis
6. Appreciate the power of architecture and design in work-plan development
7. Appreciate the power of what-if scenarios for estimates

Keywords:

Joint requirements planning, use cases, user stories, agile, use case points, objectory, Gustav Karner, Barry Boehm, feature-driven development, service oriented architecture, iterative development, estimation, budgeting, scheduling, sprint planning