Cambridge Imaging Systems

Agile workers are quicker to market

Cambridge, July 2011 – Has your wiki got a dashboard? Do you measure your sprint velocity? Do you scrum every day or only once a week?

Confused? In fact, all the terms above are intended to help software programmers reduce confusion while working faster and more efficiently. Agile working, as it is known, is used to describe a range of flexible working practices and techniques for product development planning. The 'scrum' form of planning in particular has been spreading rapidly through the IT industry and in one Cambridgeshire-based company it is being used to hasten the arrival of a new generation of digital archive management platforms.

Cambridge Imaging Systems is a leading developer of large image and video archive management systems as well as TV and radio streaming solutions. The company's team of software engineers works on advanced programs for use by the BBC, ITN, MOD and British Library, installing complex systems to manage rapidly expanding collections.

This heavy workload on bespoke programming tasks has to be balanced against the final development phases for products that will enable all owners of digital assets, including film and video, to reap the benefits of increasing global interest in archived material.

Cambridge Imaging Systems' CEO Tom Blake said:

"Since adopting Agile working our team has managed to package our Imagen technology in a feature rich platform that will enable all owners of video archives to acquire a simple means of making a financial return on their digital assets through clips sales, royalties and direct programme production. The language of Agile may sound a little 'geekish' but it has improved the whole working environment and we are confident the outcome will be well worth the effort of implementing new ways of working."

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Notes for editors:

Using Agile planning, regular 'scrums' are held during which team members have a method of agreeing how long each task should take and therefore which should have priority. The next phase is the 'sprint' when everyone concentrates solely on their agreed task or 'story', without interference from management. Testing and evaluation is built into the plan and because everyone knows exactly how much work is being achieved in a given time, the team can monitor its 'velocity'.