

Behind the scenes

Spatial Dimension's Development, Test & Support methodologies

Background

- Since the last User Conference
 - Number of installations of FlexiCadastre worldwide has doubled
 - Staff Compliment has more than doubled
- Agile software development methodology had to be streamlined for a bigger team and client base, in order to maintain our level of excellence
 - Small team, roles overlap
 - Bigger team
 - roles defined more clearly
 - processes more structured

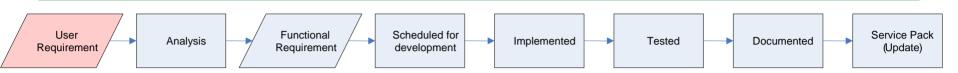


Methodology overview (the vision)

- Evaluated existing methodology
- Identified areas to streamline
- Defined new processes
- Looked for a tool to assist with managing the processes
- FogBugz used as communication tool



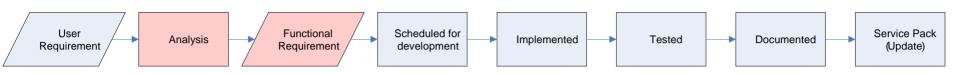
User Requirements



- Professional services staff (Project Managers and Business Analysts) log user requirements per client project in FogBugz
- Progress on development available on project level



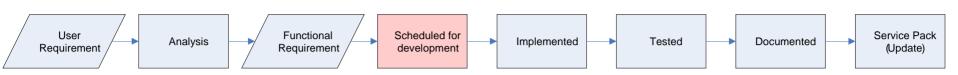
Analysis and Design



- Analyst receives user requirements through FogBugz
- Analyses:
 - Power vs. Usability (e.g. action series setup)
 - Vision vs. User requirement (e.g. mine level data management)
- User requirement is converted into one or more functional requirements that can be implemented by developers
- Analyst includes time estimation for development



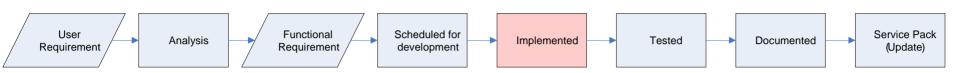
Scheduled for implementation



- Release Manager schedules functional requirement(s) to be developed as part of a shipping version
- The overall vision for FlexiCadastre as well as client expectations will drive the shipping dates and content (ArcGIS Server, Multilingual Support, Interface changes)



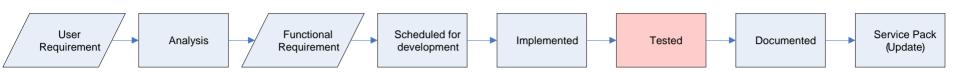
Implementation



- Developer receives notification to implement functional requirements, prioritised within the shipping version
- Developer re-assesses time estimation and adjusts if necessary
- Developer implements according to analysis



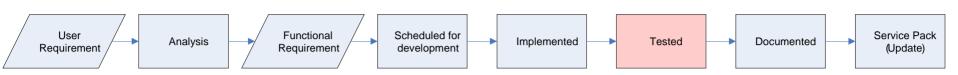
Testing - Developer



- Once implemented, the developer does unit level testing to ensure the new code works, and that it does not affect existing code
- Testing script becomes part of the of unit test script repository



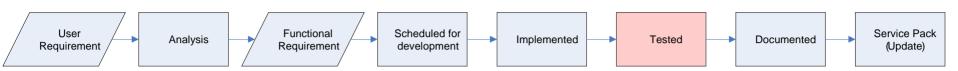
Testing - Tester



- The tester receives notification that the unit tests were successful and that the newly implemented functionality is ready for interface testing
- An interface test script is developed (using Compuware's TestPartner)
- Once the script runs successfully, it becomes part of the interface test script repository
- Every night all scripts in the repository are re-run to ensure that any bugs introduced yesterday, can be fixed today.



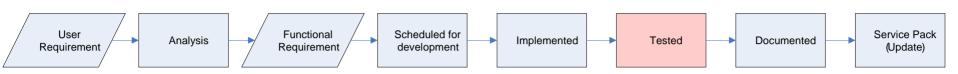
Testing – Professional Services



- All project manager whose clients requested the developed functionality, receives notification that is has been implemented.
- The project managers test functionality against the original user requirements



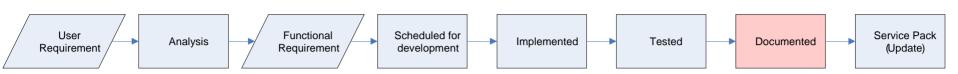
Testing – Challenges



- Moving from manual testing to automated testing
- Script repositories have to be built up to cover existing functionality
- Vast amount of different type of tests that could be included in the test plan
- Identified the first ones to implement (Unit level, Interface)
- Evaluating tools to do performance analysis



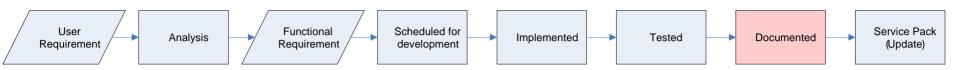
Documentation



- Documenter gets a notification to document new functionality
 - Online Help file
 - Release notes for the new piece of functionality added to the set of release notes for the shipping version



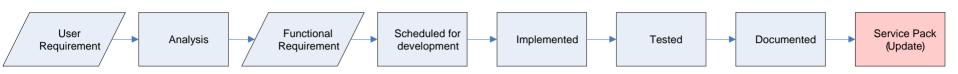
Documentation - strategy



- Online help files
 - Standard, condensed help files (step-by-step)
 - FlexiCadastre terminology and vision (Power)
 - Client specific implementation details (Usability)



Preparation of Service Packs



- Once all functionality and bug fixes that were planned for a shipping version has completed the development cycle, the version is ready to be shipped.
- While a service pack is being built, the client is informed of the new version that is available (including release notes).
- A date is set with the client for the planned update.
- Every shipping version will have a set of release notes, including a list of new functionality and details of fixed bugs (not black box or Jack-in-the-box)



Client side Quality Assurance

QA Environment vs. Production Environment

- QA Environment updated on an agreed date
- Client has opportunity to test (agreed timeframe)
- A date is set with the client for the planned update on production environment
- Production environment updated on agreed date



Version Control

Shipping versions could be either Development or Release versions

- Common set of underlying computer code
- Clients in different phases of implementation e.g. Prototype, Pre-production, Production
- Once in production, running on release version
- Before that, development version



Communication & Support

- Remote Access to client servers from Cape Town
- User discussion forums (FogBugz)
- Global partnerships



Testing - Demo

Compuware TestPartner Demo



Any questions?

