

Release planning for the lean software enterprise

Ericsson & Aalto WP 2

Done in Q3 2011

- Performed 21 interviews at Ericsson Jorvarvas, combined length 19 hours.
- Performed 12 interviews at Ericsson Hungary, combined length 14 hours.
- Initial analysis of the interviews to identify **concepts** related to the release planning **themes**.

Plan for Q4 2011

- Analyze the release planning process of Ericsson to identify **issues** and **improvement opportunities**.
- Provide **feedback** for Ericsson based on the analysis.
- Start writing an **article** on "Managing Requirements in Large-Scale Scrum-Based Software Development Environment" for Requirements Engineering journal (based also on previous research with F-Secure).

Themes for analyzing release planning

Activity — Something that is done to as a part of the planning process.

Artifact — Tangible item that is taken into account in the planning process, or is produced by the planning process.

Planning Horizon — The length of a plan.

Process — The process or method that produces planning output, or a step in a such process.

Stakeholder — A person, a role, or an organization unit that has a legitimate interest in the planning.

Work Item — Something that describes work that needs to be done for a software system.

Motive — Why something is done or organized as it is.

Problem — Something that is problematic in the planning.

Solution — Something that has solved or might solve a problem.

Overall goals of the research

- Produce a description of the **state of the art** in release planning research and practice
- Produce a description of how requirements are **created, prioritized, scheduled** and **assigned** in lean multi-team software product development organizations which employ a Scrum-based software development method.

In Scrum-based agile software development methods the whole release is not planned on detailed level in the beginning of the release project. Instead, planning and development is performed incrementally and iteratively in multiple nested planning horizons. The near future activities are planned on a high detail level and far future activities on a more abstract level. This technique is known as **rolling wave planning**. The figure below shows an example of different planning levels and planning time horizons in Scrum-based rolling wave planning.

