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Data Privacy Policy for Field Study on the Agile Team Experience

Conducted by **Chaehan So, Wolfgang Scholl**

1 Privacy of Data

1.1 DATA PROTECTION

The data collected in this field study is used exclusively for scientific purposes.

Any personalized information will be anonymized for data analysis and deleted after the field study is closed. This anonymization and deletion includes, but is not limited to

- personal names
- company names
- project names
- email addresses
- customer-related information

In the statistical data analysis following data collection in this study, no information requested in this study can be traced back to any participating company. As a consequence, if results on our statistical data analysis are published, it will be in a format which does not allow for conclusions on any participating company nor team.

1.2 DATA COLLECTION TOOL

The tool for conducting the survey in this field study is "EFS Survey" by the company "Unipark", the German subsidiary of "Globalpark". EFS Survey is designed for conducting scientific field studies with a web-based questionnaire and meets the strict data privacy criteria for such studies.

Using EFS Survey, participants of this field study receive an email with a URL to the questionnaire.

Responses from the three different questionnaires (project manager, team members, customer) are aggregated to the same project in an anonymized form, i.e. it is not retraceable which project is the source.

1.3 SECURITY

Personal information provided to us by a participating person or company is kept strictly confidential and protected using industry-standard technology, such as firewalls on the hosting server dedicated for the survey.

1.4 YOUR CONSENT

By participating in this study, you consent to the collection and use of project information by Chaehan So and Wolfgang Scholl for scientific purposes, and in the presentation of results in conferences and in research papers published in psychology, software development, management & organization and related journals.

2 Description of Field Study

2.1 GOAL OF STUDY

The research question of this study is how practices of agile methods, in short: agile practices, support social-psychological collaborative mechanisms which enhance project effectiveness.

2.2 RESEARCHERS

Chaehan So, M.S. Business/EE, M.A. Business, is an IT consultant with 8 years experience primarily with software development methodology, in particular agile methods.

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Scholl is professor of organizational psychology at Humboldt University Berlin, Germany.

2.3 METHOD OF STUDY

Research in this study is based on a model of project effectiveness developed from insights in innovation research conducted by Prof. Scholl (e.g. Scholl, 2005). This model will be tested empirically in a questionnaire-based field study.

The model conceptualizes ten agile practices as independent variables, project effectiveness as the dependent variable, and nine mediator variables in various paths hypothesizing causal relationships. The statistical investigation of such a model is done with structural equation modeling (SEM). SEM is a specific method of multivariate statistics which is able to test models consisting of latent variables and causal relationships.

2.4 SCHEDULE OVERVIEW AND MAJOR PHASES

The dates listed are not binding and serve information purposes only.

19-26 June 08: Pretest of Questionnaire

July-Sep 08: Finalizing Questionnaire

In this phase, we analyze the pretest data through various statistical methods in order to calculate the reliability and validity of the items representing the model constructs. After this analysis, the questionnaire can be reduced to the most reliable and valid items.

End Oct: Final Study

The final field study will be conducted through a web-based questionnaire to be completed by four team members of each project team, and a separate questionnaire for the project manager and customer.

Our sample is composed of software development projects applying agile practices consistently throughout the project duration.

Nov 08-Feb 09: Statistical Analysis

In this phase, we analyze the data by multiple regression analysis to obtain regression coefficients between each agile practice and effectiveness. A second level of analysis consists in structural equation modeling (SEM), through which we will calculate path coefficients of the mediating collaborative processes in the proposed model.

Mar 09-July 09: Feedback to Participants and Finalizing Dissertation

The results of the statistical analysis are written into a summary and interpreted according to theoretical and other empirical considerations. This summary will be reported to the participating companies and integrated into the dissertation of Chaehan So, supervised by Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Scholl.

Aug 09: Presentation of Results at the Agile2009 Conference

We will present the results of this study at the Agile2009 Conference.

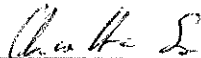
Q4/09 – Q4/10: Publication of Results in Journals and Conferences

We will publish the results of this study in journals of psychology, software development, organization & management and related fields.

3 Data Privacy Declaration

We, Chaehan So and Wolfgang Scholl, hereby declare that we will use the data collected in the above mentioned field study on the Agile Team Experience according to the rules specified in paragraph 1.

Berlin, 9.6.2008



Chaehan So



Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Scholl