Agile Documentation: A Pattern Guide To Producing Lightweight Documents For Software Projects
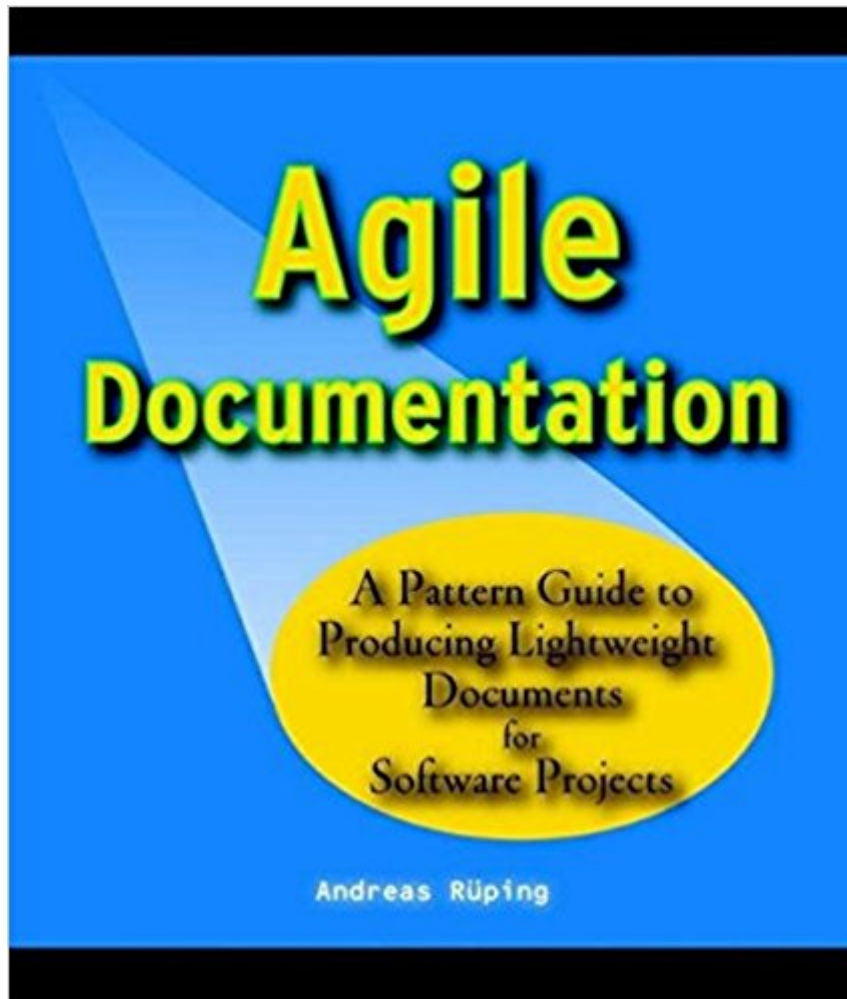
Agile Documentation

A Pattern Guide to Producing Lightweight Documents for Software Projects

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Synopsis

Software documentation forms the basis for all communication relating to a software project. To be truly effective and usable, it should be based on what needs to be known. Agile Documentation provides sound advice on how to produce lean and lightweight software documentation. It will be welcomed by all project team members who want to cut out the fat from this time consuming task. Guidance given in pattern form, easily digested and cross-referenced, provides solutions to common problems. Straightforward advice will help you to judge: What details should be left in and what left out When communication face-to-face would be better than paper or online How to adapt the documentation process to the requirements of individual projects and build in change How to organise documents and make them easily accessible When to use diagrams rather than text How to choose the right tools and techniques How documentation impacts the customer Better than offering pat answers or prescriptions, this book will help you to understand the elements and processes that can be found repeatedly in good project documentation and which can be shaped and designed to address your individual circumstance. The author uses real-world examples and utilises agile principles to provide an accessible, practical pattern-based guide which shows how to produce necessary and high quality documentation.

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Customer Reviews

Ruping did a good job of covering the topic of software documentation, albeit somewhat generically,

i.e. not that specific to software development. He quotes a lot of others in his book and identifies that the goal (of agile documenting) is 'light-weight but sufficient'. If you're working on developing a system for documenting software development (or really any other technical project) this would make a good reference, but start at the back of the book. He uses patterns in his book as his technique to cover the topic. They are recognized problems and solutions, and he lists all of them in the back of the book in thumbnail form. The middle of the book provides the elaboration. The first part of the book is his professional history (sorry Ruping, but not that interesting), and his how-to-use-the-book section.The problem I had with the book is that I didn't see anything new and innovating. I didn't have an `ah-ha' moment where I finally understood the real principles behind 'agile' documentation. I didn't find this book 'agile' at all. I also did not agree with all of his solutions, most seemed clichÃ©. But again, if you're looking for a reference on the topic of technical documentation - this is not bad.

As a professional technical writer I was hoping to find insights on how to do my job in an Agile development environment, as my experience is in the slower-moving "waterfall" types of development. The book clearly says early on, but you couldn't tell from the description online, that it's really more about the design documentation that the development and test people will need to use among themselves. I wish I'd had a chance to borrow and skim for 10 minutes, I would have saved my money.Given what it is, it's a good primer for developers to use for specs and so on. If those are well-done, the end-user docs are much easier to craft, so I'd recommend it to the intended audience.

As a tech communicator with long experience in various engineering environments, I am enthused about the concepts espoused here. We need to write "documentation" the way we like to read "documentation"; it needs to have the content needed particularly by us, in the style we need, and concise and to the point when our need begs for that. We need to look toward long term relevance and up-to-dateness - of all technical information, especially technical reference information, and it is more likely to be so if it is concise and focused to start with. We are all scanners, doing stuff or acquiring information in a hurry, doing tasks in a hurry. Another book told about how a new guy on a project was given a thick document about the project. Two days later, he had a headache; couldn't get the picture. If he were given an agile-ly written doc, he would have gotten the picture. Ginny Redish (Letting Go of the Words) is another great one along the same thinking.ONE distractor: He wrote the book with a bit of his own fluff. Maybe to give the book a slight bit of thickness. Could have

been more to the point. An engineer I used to work with used to say "paid by the pound".

The author misleads the audience with his title, "Agile Documentation." There is nothing about Agile methodology in the book, rather a way to produce "Lightweight Documents." It is conceivable that "Lightweight Documents" could be appropriate deliverables for products using Agile development, but he does not lay that foundation.

Agile Documentation: A Pattern Guide to Producing Lightweight Documents for Software Projects Agile: Agile Project Management CherryTree Style Guide(Scrum,Agile Scrum,agile methodology,Agile development,agile coaching,agile leader,agile methods,scrum master certification,agile introduction) Agile Project Management: Box Set - Agile Project Management QuickStart Guide & Agile Project Management Mastery (Agile Project Management, Agile Software Development, Agile Development, Scrum) Agile Product Management: (Box Set) Agile Estimating & Planning Your Sprint with Scrum and Release Planning 21 Steps (agile project management, agile software ... agile scrum, agile estimating and planning) Agile Estimating & Planning Your Sprint with Scrum (agile project management, agile software development, agile development, agile scrum, agile estimating and planning) Agile Project Management: QuickStart Guide - The Simplified Beginners Guide To Agile Project Management (Agile Project Management, Agile Software Development, Agile Development, Scrum) Agile Project Management: & Scrum Box Set - Agile Project Management QuickStart Guide & Scrum QuickStart Guide (Agile Project Management, Agile Software ... Scrum, Scrum Agile, Scrum Master) Agile Product Management: (Box Set) : Scrum: A Cleverly Concise Agile Guide and Agile: The Complete Overview of Agile Principles and Practices (scrum, ... development, agile software development) Agile Project Management: Mastery - An Advanced Guide To Agile Project Management (Agile Project Management, Agile Software Development, Agile Development, Scrum) Agile Project Management: Agile Revolution, Beyond Software Limits: A Practical Guide to Implementing Agile Outside Software Development (Agile Business Leadership, Book 4) Agile Project Management: For Beginners - A Brief Introduction to Learning the Basics of Agile Project Management (Agile Project Management, Agile Software Development, Scrum) Agile Product Management: (Box Set): Agile Estimating & Planning Your Sprint with Scrum & User Stories 21 Tips (scrum, scrum master, agile development, agile software development) Agile Project Management: An Inclusive Walkthrough of Agile Project Management (Agile Project Management, Agile Software Developement, Scrum, Project Management) Agile Project Management: The Agile PMO: Leading the Effective, Value Driven and Agile Project

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