

Re: OOP/OOD Philosophy

Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/General/comp.object/2005-07/msg00106.html>

- *From:* Robert C. Martin <unclebob@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 06 Jul 2005 12:42:08 -0500
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On Wed, 6 Jul 2005 08:00:08 -0400, "Daniel Parker"
<danielaparker@spam?nothanks.windupbird.com> wrote:

>I think the criticism is of writing which is largely polemical, and I think
>it would be fair to put much of the writing by XP proponents in this
>category. A good test would be to check whether the author treats XP as if
>it were the one and only methodology that has no problems, and a good number
>of articles on the subject appear to fall into this category.

Does it? Oh I agree that there are some over-enthusiastic blurbs written here and there. But where are the serious articles and books that treat XP as a discipline that has no problems? Certainly the primary XP books don't fall into that category. Nor do the articles by the original proponents. While I would agree that there have been certain excesses of enthusiasm amongst the original proponents (and I have been as guilty as any), none of us has claimed silver-bullet status for XP/Agile.

>It's hard to
>find blogs that dissect both successful and unsuccessful XP projects and
>systematically discuss the consequences of the various practices, which is
>what you'd expect if the author wanted to be taken seriously.

I'm astounded. There has been a rather large amount of critical and thoughtful writing about XP/Agile in the magazines and newsgroups. Folks have tried it this way and that, and have commented on how the practices apply to them and their situations. Whole books have been published with the research data on certain practices.

> Instead, you
>get pictures of happy programmers on the cover of Software Development
>magazine, links to projects that seem to go dead after a while, and links to
>puff pieces.

You also get links to projects that are succeeding and continue to succeed, as well as articles in Dr. Dobbs about the problems of XP/Agile, and links to critical and thoughtful discussions on many blogs and newsgroups.

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>None of this is anti-XP; it's just that evangelical writing
>tends to come across as a little bit silly when presented to a professional
>audience.

So does anti-writing; especially when it isn't based on any kind of facts.

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"The aim of science is not to open the door to infinite wisdom,
but to set a limit to infinite error."

— Bertolt Brecht, Life of Galileo

• *Follow-Ups:*

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 ◇ From: Philip

• *References:*

- ◆ **Re: OOP/OOD Philosophy**
 ◇ From: krasicki
- ◆ **Re: OOP/OOD Philosophy**
 ◇ From: Michael Feathers
- ◆ **Re: OOP/OOD Philosophy**
 ◇ From: krasicki
- ◆ **Re: OOP/OOD Philosophy**
 ◇ From: Nick Malik [Microsoft]
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