

Conducting Post-iteration Workshops

Post-iteration workshops are essentially an attempt to systematize the generation of organizational learning *during* a development process. They build on the traditional postmortem review that occurs at the end of a large project, by first dividing a development process into regular, short iterations and then placing a review at the end of each of those iterations.

The post-iteration workshop technique summarizes the previous iteration of the project and allows team members to think about any difficulties and negative aspects with the goal of improving the next iteration.

To successfully implement a post-iterative workshop strategy, consider the following recommendations:

- Allot your smaller-type project 2-3 development iterations and a corrective iteration at the end
- Use the KJ method of generating experiences: putting positive experiences on post-it notes and a flip chart for display, and then grouping negative findings on another flip chart in order to identify the problem areas.
- Keep track of recurring negative findings and encourage reflection by the team on becoming more effective.
- End the development post-iteration workshops by generating and agreeing on a list of action items for the next iteration.
- Revise the list of action items from the previous iteration, based on which improvements had taken place, and which were not implemented.

Reference:

Salo, O., K. Kolehmainen, P. Kyllonen, J. Lothman, S. Salmijarvi, and P. Abrahamsson. 2004. Self-adaptability of Agile software processes: A case study on post-iteration workshops. *Lecture Notes in Computer Science* 3092: 184-193. Retrieved from SpringerLink database.