Project Kick-off with Distributed Pair Programming

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The Project

Expert Vienna

Saros

Internet

Researcher Berlin

Developers Bangalore
IDE including Saros Plug-In
Project Overview

- 16 sessions in 4 months
- About 1 session per week
- Developer's goals: knowledge transfer/producing code
- Session duration: about 90 min.
- Tasks: developing/review
- Content: chosen by expert
Data Analysis

- Researcher + 2 PP-experts
- Detailed content analysis
  - Identify phenomenon
  - Categorize phenomenon
  - Analysis in context of the establishment process

⇒ Insights about the benefits and problems of DPP
Benefits of DPP for Project Kick-off

• Developers declared sessions as successful in 12 of 13 questionnaires
  • In at least 85% DPP was helpful to achieve the session goal
• Communication was enhanced
  • Before: chat messages and e-mail
• Important information were transferred
  • Teaching while coding or walkthroughs
• Tasks could be accomplished faster
  • No delay in feedback
Problems of DPP for Project Kick-off

- Missing workspace awareness
- Ambiguity about session goals
- Conflicts with role fulfillment
  - Example: Driver/OBServer role
Problems of DPP for Project Kick-off

Causes
- Little Experience with PP/DPP
- Little Role Consciousness
- Diverging Expectations

Consequences
- Less Productive Sessions
- Boredom
- Exhaustion

Conflicts with Role Fulfillment

Intervening Condition
- Pair-pressure
Problems of DPP for Project Kick-off

- Lessons learned:
  - Problems can stay unresolved although identified early
  - DPP benefits remain undiscovered
  - Resolving conflicts depends on the developer's fears and attitudes
Conclusion

- Kick-off accomplished successfully
- Constant process improvement according to developer's requirements
- Benefits of DPP for project kick-off:
  - Communication, knowledge transfer, fast feedback
- Challenging problems:
  - Ambiguity about session goals, and missing workspace awareness, conflicts with role fulfillment
Thank you!

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Research Method

- Identify and cope with problems
- Uncover relevant procedures
- Principles of Canonical Action Research
  - Cyclic/iterative
  - Insights/Feedback

Actual State Analysis

Ideal State Analysis

Interventions

Researcher-Developer Agreement
Future work

- Improving Saros (Awareness)
- Adding video
- Training and guideline before establishment of DPP