

Devoxx 2009 – Day 2 – Key Takeaways from Uncle Bob

Keynote 2: Bob Martin

aka. Uncle Bob – Clean Code is his last book.

Fitness is one of his creations. Object Mentor is his business.

He talks about blackholes... how funny.

“All of our reality can be projected on the surface of a blackhole. Not the volume. Weird, huh?”



Illustration 1: The Black Holes Geek

Filling the Professional Gap

Some quotes as he frantically moved around the stage (he warned the cameraman!)

“We hated them and they hated us... every ten years... what's going on here???”

“Isn't everybody sick of agile?” (love this one)

So, now after '70s, 80's, 90's, 00's, ... what about 10's ???

Professionalism and Craftmanship

The problem we have is that we do not have a **defined profession**.

What does it means to be a software developer???

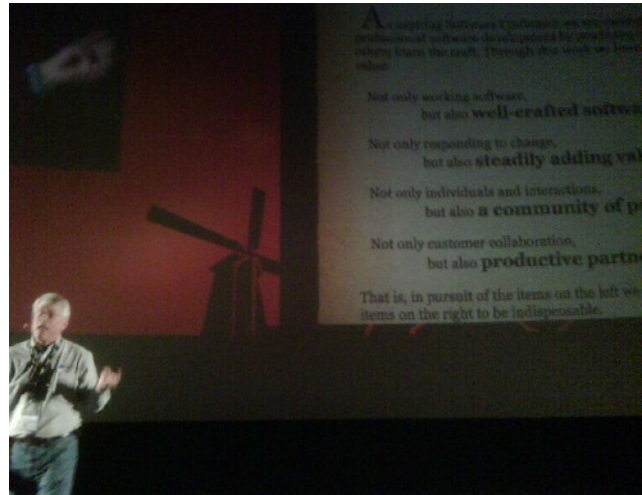
Writing code can be done by everybody. So, what's makes you a **professional**?

There is this movement of **craftsmanship**. We have to be able to be **proud** of what we do, to be able to do a good job.

What prevents us from doing a good job? Yeah, managers... but wait a minute!

If we are the ones to be the pros, this is our own problem. We have to find a way to figure out what it means to be a pro. We have to find a way to say NO.

Look squarely in the face. After analyzing the problem, say NO if this not okay. It is hard to look at your customer/boss and then stand on **principle**. But this is the nature of a profession. There is **discipline** to be followed and that cannot be compromised. We are not going to compromise below a given line.



Geekism.

We are viewed as geeks. I am a geek, okay. But **this doesn't means that I am a not a geek that has to be taken seriously**. We are technical in nature. That we like to watch the stars, the history channel.

Blue collar

In some circles, this makes us seen as blue collars. Paid by the hour. And we ended up viewing ourselves as laborers instead of professionals.

Hourly rate

Completely **stupid**.

Do you think doctors do charge by the hour?

As we look at ourselves as pros, we will have another view on how we are going to behave.

The Management Drain

There is a temptation go get into management.

A bright software developer works for 3 or 4 years and then gets into management.

We give the best to the enemy.

People think that the way to succeed is to go into management.

The backlash

The software craftsmanship manifesto

<http://manifesto.softwarecraftsmanship.org>

Google map of signatories

This is a global phenomenon

Minimum standards code of ethics

- First, do no harm
 - company
 - code
 - function of the code
 - customer by doing some mad dash

This requires courage and conviction. We need to **PUSH BACK HARD**.

Managers are just people. Really, they are.

CUSTOMER -> SCHEDULE -> DELIVERY

is their stance.

If you PUSH BACK, this will EARN YOU RESPECT.

CLEAN CODE

Why did you write the bad code in the first place.

« Deadline, fix it later... »

There is a professional attitude that we should not compromise. Our mothers and mothers' mothers.
Everything worth doing is worth doing well.

To go fast, go well.

You are not going to go fast if you write crap with the expectation to clean the mess later.

TDD

If you are not doing TDD at this point, then something is wrong.

Are you going to write your tests first all the time. No, of course! Sometimes, you write code and then tests. This is not a religious thing but a good thing to do.

100% test coverage

You'll never get 100% coverage.

So, some code « might work ».

KNOW it works.

When you release code, you need to know that it works.

GREEN BAR SHIPPABLE

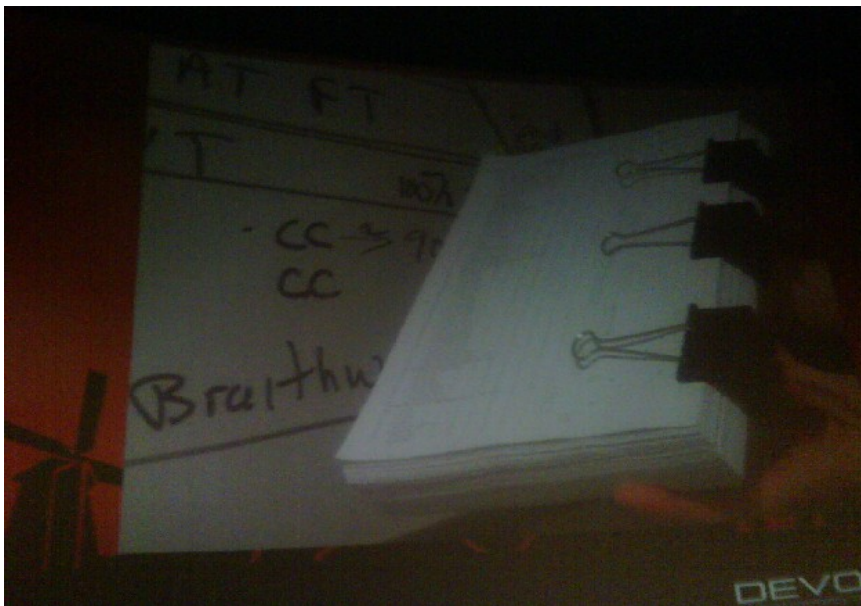


Illustration 2: The test spec TABLE OF CONTENTS !!!

1 million every six weeks for manual testing

and budget cut.

QA SHOULD FIND NOTHING: this must be our attitude.

If they find something, we should take tests to make it not ever occur again.

QA is SPECIFICATION, not VERIFICATION !!!

I want QA to be WRITING THE TESTS. QA AND BUSINESS ANALYSTS!!!!!!

Definition of done

You know you are done when YOU PASS THE TESTS WRITTEN BY QA and BUSINESS

This puts QA in the SPECIFICATION

STUPID TO ASSOCIATE TEAMS WITH PROJECTS

Assemble yourselves in teams of 10/12 devs and accept projects into the team.

Everybody of the team must be working on all the projects and we are going to measure the team velocity.

So, reallocate velocity points dynamically on projects.

Get projects done driven by the business priorities.

unclebob@objectmentor.com

IT IS OUR TASK TO DEFINE OURSELVES AS PROFESSIONALS

QA

I am afraid of the certification disease!!!!

A good talk as well.

Philippe Back
November 2009

web <http://philippeback.eu> | blog <http://philippeback.be>