Desktop Evaluation of EBT Retrospectives as RE Research Method

Interview guide v 1.0

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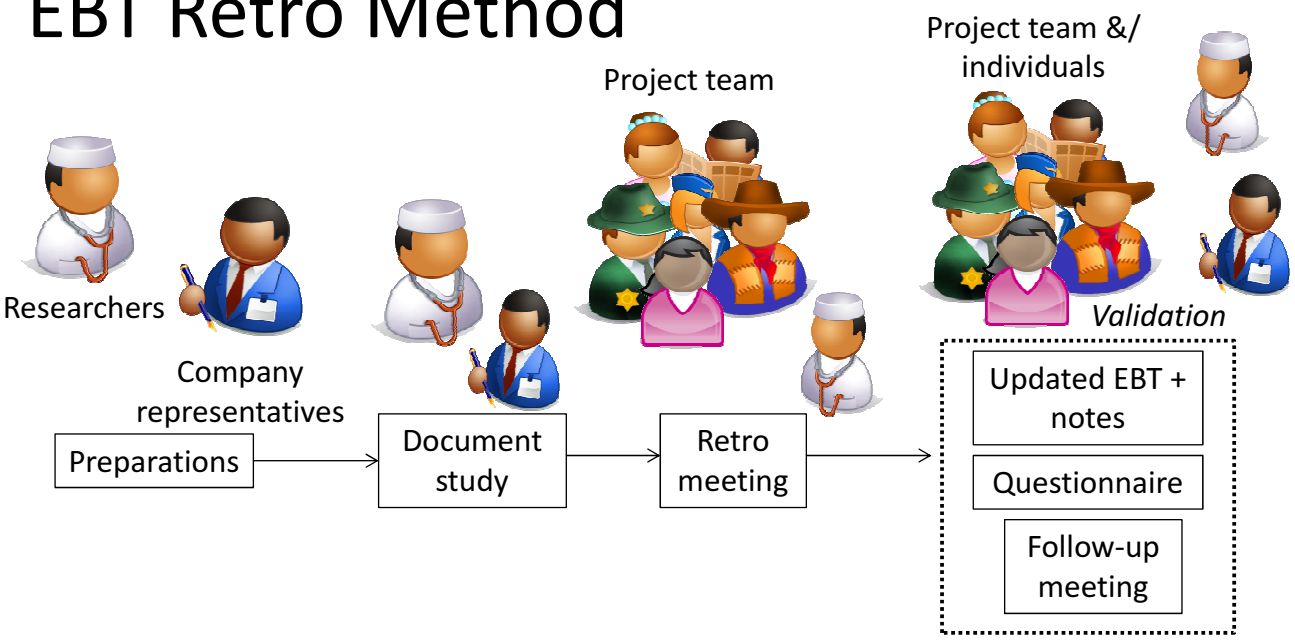
Desktop Evaluation

- Participants: Experienced empirical RE researchers
- Method: 1 hr semi-structure interview / participant
- Ideally, participants agree to be named in article
- Incentives
  - Insight into method
  - Possibility to influence further development
  - Participation acknowledged in article
  - Participants can suggest suitable reference to related work to include

Background & Context

- Method developed in close collaboration with large partner company (market driven, agile, embedded, non-safety critical)
- Aim: assess & research impact of RE decision making and communication on development lead time (from feature request to delivery)
- Applied to 3 sub-projects for core SW features
  - 1-4 developers, 14-18 months leadtime
- Evaluation of retrospective method published at EmpiRE'12

EBT Retro Method



-Define RQs, focus questions, goals, aspects & evidence
-Select project

-Prepare EBTs

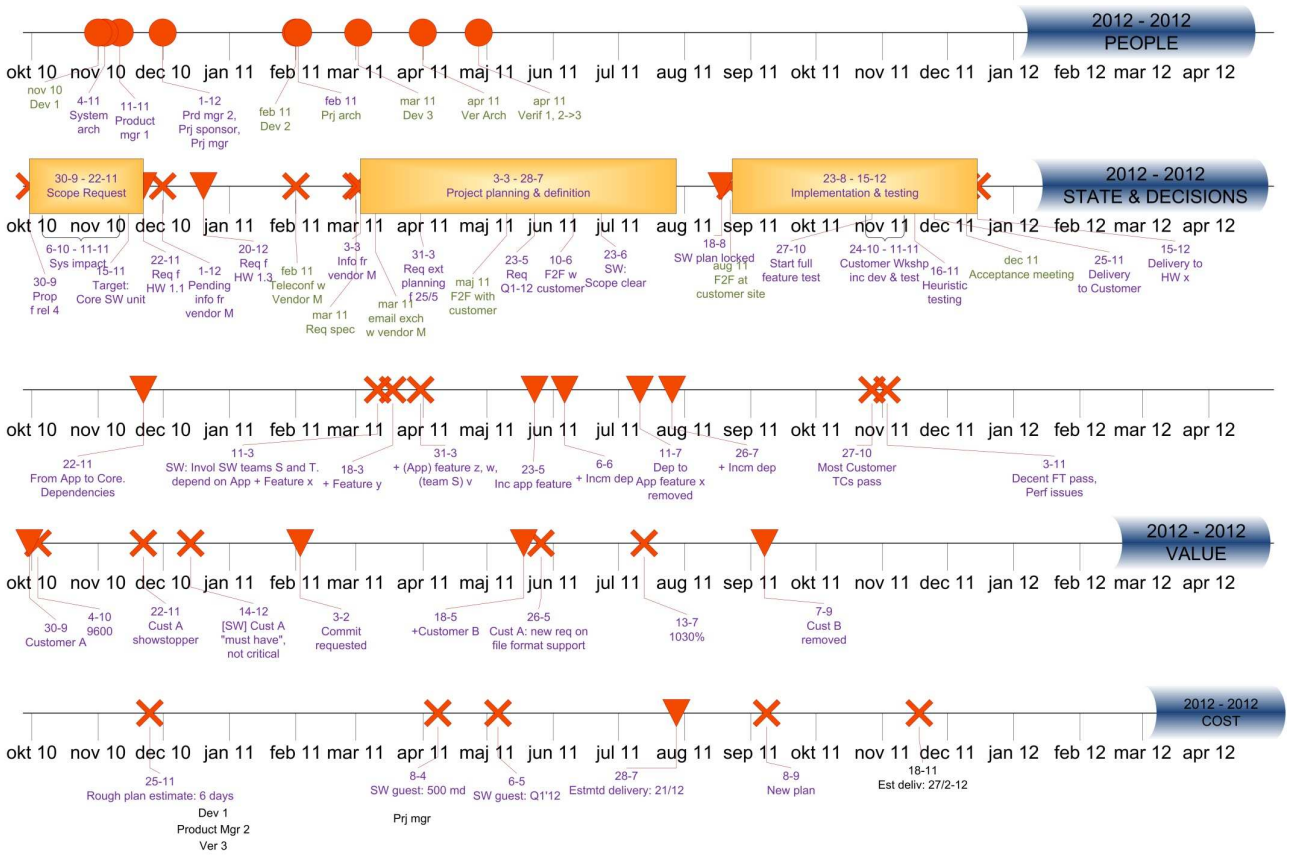
-Open discussion based on EBT and focus questions
-Summary of lessons learnt

-update EBT & distribute meeting notes to participants
-Questionnaire &/ follow-up meeting allow gathering futher data on research findings

Example: Impact of RE decision making & communication on lead time

- Goal: Decrease lead time for development by enabling efficient requirements decisions and communication
- RQs:
  - How does RE decision making influence development lead time?
  - How does RE communication influence development lead time?
- Aspects: People, State, Decisions, Business value, impl cost, artefact events
- Example of focus questions on scope & planning:
  - Were there any changes to the scope?
  - What prompted scope changes?
  - Did the business value change?
  - When was the development cost first estimated? By whom and based on what information?
  - Was development cost updated? By whom & based on what information?
  - In hindsight, how accurate was the estimation?

EBT example: Lead time study



DESKTOP EVALUATION

Interview Questions

A. Are EBT retros suitable as an RE research method?
   i. Strong points
   ii. Weak points & Potential improvements/adaptations

B. For which contexts are EBT retros suitable as an RE research method? What is required?
   i. Case company chars, e.g. size, domain, maturity, culture
   ii. Project characteristics, e.g. size, length, project model, context
   iii. Types of RQs
   iv. Industry-academia relationship
   v. Researcher competence
   vi. Specific validity threats to consider