

# CAN YOU RECOMMEND SOME AGILE METRICS?

*(Most don't want to measure, some only want to apply limited metrics, and some steer clear of traditional metrics all together, if they aren't directly related to Scrum ...)*

- **My first bit of advice is to fall back upon the old Goal-Question-Metric (GQM) paradigm** (i.e., what do you want to measure and why, and, more importantly, is it aligned to business or market needs, not just some academic benchmark or poor proxy for a real customer need).

- **Here are some very BASIC agile performance measures** (<http://davidfrico.com/agile-performance-metrics.pdf>).

- **Here's another view of basic agile metrics** (<http://davidfrico.com/agile-metrics.pdf>).

- **Here's a simple taxonomy meant to help orient people on the general types of metrics agile projects may want to utilize** (<http://davidfrico.com/agile-metrics-taxonomy.pdf>).

- **Here's a slide with some suggested metrics related to the values of agile methods** (i.e., if we value the values then we should measure to them, <http://davidfrico.com/agile-soft-metrics.pdf>).

- **Here are some basic kinds of agile testing metrics if you are a QUALITY NAZI** (<http://davidfrico.com/agile-testing-metrics.pdf>).

- **Here are my FAVORITE metrics, which allow me to measure agile performance across data for the last 45 years** (<http://davidfrico.com/agile-prod-qual-metrics.pdf>).

- **My favorite productivity (lines of code per hour) and quality metrics (defect density) allow me to basic Agile ROI analysis** (<http://davidfrico.com/agile-roi-metrics.pdf>)

- **Evolutionary design folks like "Cyclomatic Complexity" from the 1970s** (<http://davidfrico.com/ford-articles.txt>).

- **Here are Dan Rawsthorne's and Dave Nicolette's comprehensive briefings on relevant agile metrics** (<http://davidfrico.com/agile-metrics-briefs.zip>).

- **Don't forget Continuous Integration, Continuous Delivery, and DevOps metrics:**

- Continuous Integration: Improving Software Quality and Reducing Risk  
<http://www.amazon.com/dp/0321336380> (very down to Earth must read)

- Continuous Delivery: Reliable Software Releases through Build, Test, and Deployment Automation  
<http://www.amazon.com/dp/0321601912> (good knowledge for the new technical manager)

- DevOps for Developers  
<http://www.amazon.com/dp/1430245697> (looks interesting too)

- Continuous Delivery, Continuous Integration, and DevOps Whitepaper  
<http://www.lintegrate.com.au/whitepapers/opscod-continuous-delivery-gigaompro.pdf> (knockout white paper)

- DevOps ROI Reports  
<http://davidfrico.com/rebellabs13.pdf>  
<http://davidfrico.com/puppetlabs13.pdf>

*(I liked Jim York's approach, i.e., he suggested that, once again, people align business or project goals and specific agile practices, <http://davidfrico.com/york13.pdf> -- Now, once you've aligned your practices and tools to your business and project goals, then you can identify key performance measures to evaluate how well you are utilizing those practice -- For instance, let's say pair programming was a way to deal with a particular customer's needs -- Then, the choice of metrics is obvious -- That is, pair programming performance metrics ...)*

**Bottom Line: If you don't align business and project goals with practices and practice-based measures, then what are you really measuring** (i.e., no sense in using SAT scores if you are trying to lose weight) ...

*(That being said, there are still some generic metrics that cut across agile projects, i.e., are you collaborating with customers, do you have effective teamwork, are you iterating properly, and are you adapting to change -- Once again, to me productivity and quality metrics sort of underlie the agile values as well -- But, then, my views are considered heretical by some -- See my recent call for CI data, <http://davidfrico.com/ci-devops-data-needed.pdf> ...)*