Accelerating Agile
- an experience report

Dan North
@tastapod

Dan North & Associates
Once upon a time…
Step 1: Learn the domain

- **Seed** the team with a domain expert
- **Study** trading – just like a trader!
- **Practise** trading with the traders and while you're there...
Step 2: Prioritise risky over valuable

- Actively surface uncertainty

- Domain uncertainty
  - Integrating with a trading exchange
  - Managing orders

- Technical uncertainty
  - Latency, Throughput
  - Toolchain
Step 3: Plan as far as you need

- Adjust as you learn
- Reset the board
  - Every week? Every day?
- Review your planning horizon
Step 4: Try something different

Languages
- Scala
- JavaScript and nodejs
- Erlang, Clojure, Go

Programming styles
- CSP
- Actors
- Single Event Loop a.k.a. “Turn-based processing”
- Fork-join
Step 5: Fire, Aim, Ready

- Get something (anything!) in front of users
- The best feedback is from real use
- **Showcase** frequently – even daily!
Step 6: Build small, separate pieces

“Share memory by communicating”

DRY is the enemy of decoupled

Don't be afraid of functions
...languages or libraries

@tastapod
Step 7: Deploy **small**, separate pieces

- Make component deployment **quick**
- Make product deployment **consistent**
- Make components **self-describing**
- Make environments **unsurprising**
Step 8: Prefer simple over easy

I'm using Java. I'm writing HTTP-based services. Do I really need a servlet container?
- https://github.com/webbit/webbit

I need to manage binary dependencies. Do I really need an XML-based Internet downloader?
- https://github.com/mfoemmel/fig

How hard does monitoring really need to be?
- Idea to wireframe to working implementation in a morning!

@tastapod
Step 9: Make the trade-offs

Build vs. buy vs. OSS

Learning a framework vs. rolling your own

Does logging really need a “framework”?
Step 10: Share the love

✔ Pairing

✔ Learning lunches

✔ Code review (!!)

✔ On-boarding
Step 11: Be ok with “failure”

Product Development not Project Delivery

Progress is a series of experiments

Failing fast is succeeding!
Step 12: There are always 12 steps

Delivering this fast can be addictive :)  
It can also cause feelings of euphoria

There are probably groups you can talk to
Thanks for listening

dan@dannorth.net

http://dannorth.net

And big thanks to my former team at DRW