

# The Value of TSP in Agile Practices

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# The Fundamental Question

**If we're so good, why do Agile (or "agile") practices dominate the mindshare of software developers today?**



# (Only) A Few Potential Answers

Nobody (or nobody outside of government contractors and outsourcers) ever hears about the SEI, or CMMI, or TSP, or <fill in the blank>.

They got there first. (They created the “there”.)

There are so many of them, they suck all the oxygen out of the discussion for everyone else in the space. (Even RUP, with IBM marketing behind it, hasn’t fared well and has had to adapt.)

Any idiot can (and many idiots do) hang out an “Agile” shingle and start selling it.

# Let's Not Miss the Point

All of these answers and more are true to some extent, but this statement misses the point.

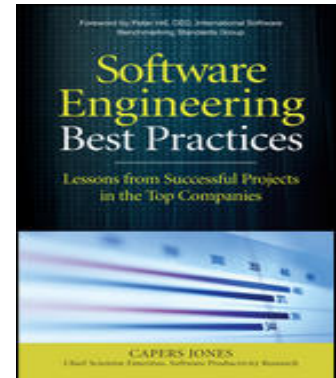
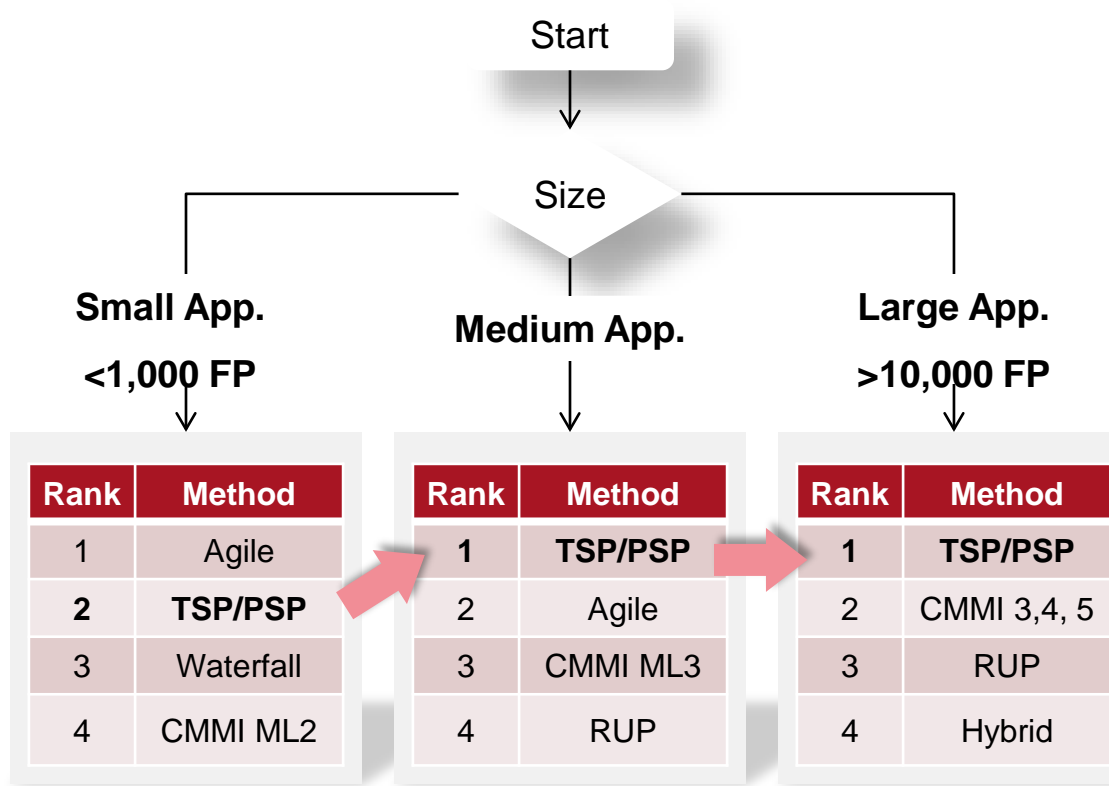
The point is:

- ***TSP has proven-good methods that have in fact been proven to work alongside many popular agile methods.***

If we don't worry too much about what the method is called (*Elite Scrum? Agile Extreme? TSP for ...?*), we should be able to make TSP practices a more common part of the state of the practice.

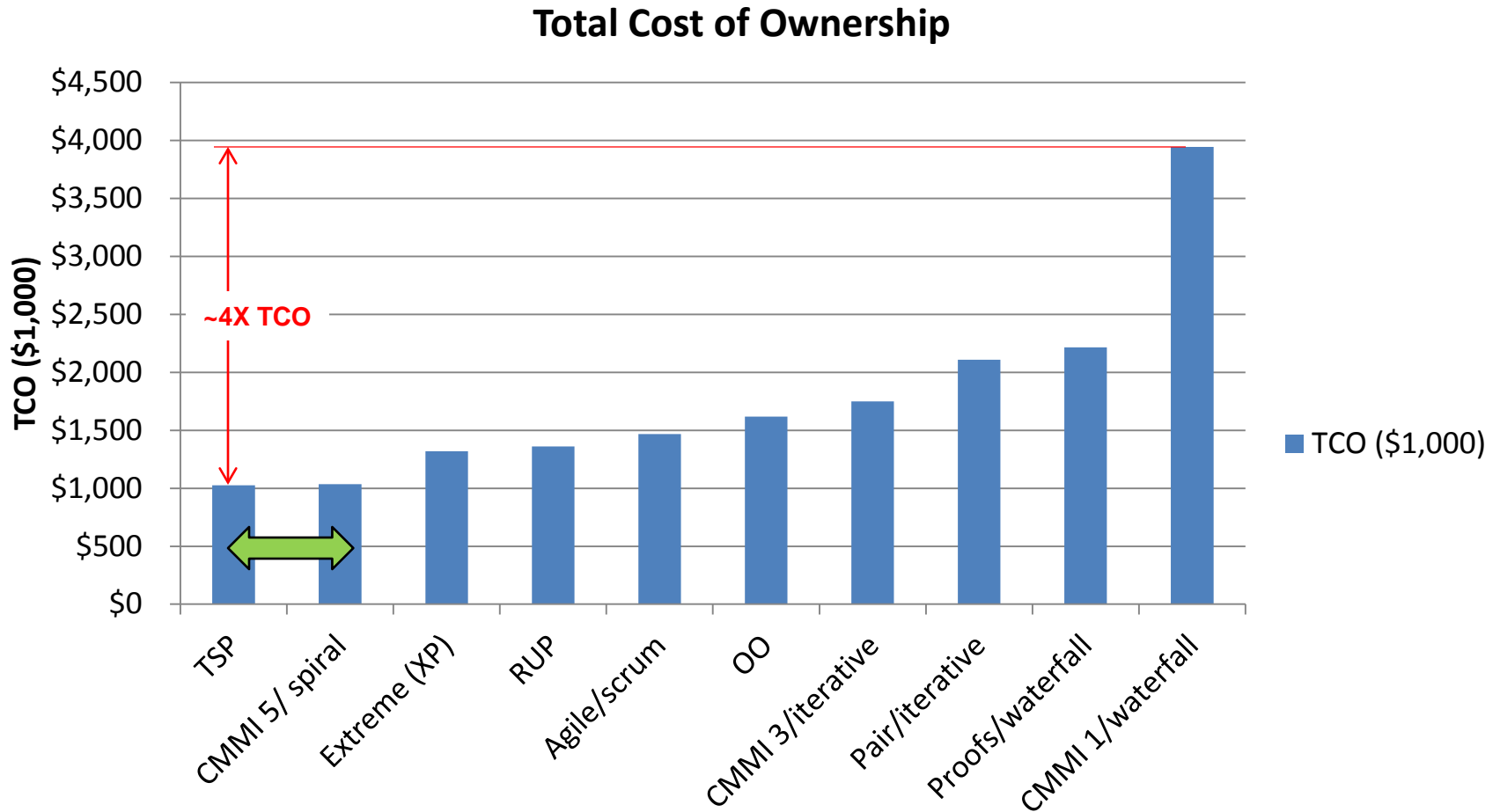


# Capers Jones is an Advocate



**Software Engineering Best Practices,**  
C. Jones, 2010

# How Does TSP Compare in Operation?



Source: C. Jones <http://www.infoq.com/articles/evaluating-agile-software-methodologies>



# Best Practices Show Themselves

The best software engineering methods share these characteristics.

- Self-managed, self-organizing teams
- Stakeholder involvement throughout development
- Architecture-led, iterative, incremental development strategy
- Team-focused and team-owned/team-executed practices for
  - planning, estimating, and commitment
  - measurement and tracking
  - quality management, defect management, and quality assurance
- Embedded qualitative and quantitative feedback mechanisms
- Rational management leadership style



# Scrum Report Says TSP “Agile-ish”?

Both the 2013 and 2015 Scrum reports list TSP as a response to “What Agile approach is your organization using?”

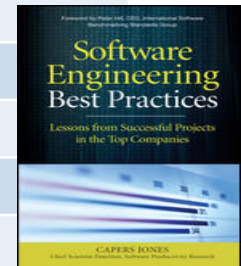
Unfortunately only 2% and 1% of respondents, respectively – but we’re on the list.





# Is TSP Agile? Yes, and more...

Agile	TSP
Team organization	Team organization
Project management – planning and estimating	Project management – planning and estimating
Change control	Change control
Requirements	Requirements
Design	Design
Code development	Code development
Configuration control	Configuration control
Testing	Testing
	Specialization of team members
	Project management – tracking and control
	Reusability
	Quality assurance
	Inspections
	Static analysis
	Security
	Documentation and training



Software Engineering Best Practices, C. Jones, 2010

# What Does TSP Do That Agile Really Needs?

- Measurement
- Personal reviews
- Team inspections
- More complete roster of roles
- Better scalability
- Better/more explicit design role
- Better pathways to architecture and security practices
  
- ....a partial list...



# So How Do We Get There?

A new book?

- ***PSP for Scrum and Other Agile Teams***
- ***TSP in <N> Iterations***

Papers and Conference Presentations?

- (How's that working out?)

Blogs and social media?

- (Yeah, how *is* that working out?)

# We Must Play Outside the TSP Sandbox

It may be that SEI cannot effectively do this going forward.

We almost certainly cannot do it without a lot of help.

That makes the work of the TSP Community of Practice essential.



# Questions?

