

Abstract

In the present study, a new usability method was developed in order to be applicable in agile development processes. Previous studies have shown that usability measurements are not well integrated in the development process (Woywode et al., 2012). One reason for this is that they are too time-consuming and delay the development (Rösler & Thölke, 2015). The Instant Usability Report (IUR) method was developed in order to fit into the agile development processes. It allows to prepare and conduct user tests in two working days and instantly report the results and concentrates on the detection of usability problems in predefined workflows. Within the scope of the present study, the IUR method was first developed and tested with several software products, as well as evaluated in comparison with a detailed expert analysis conducted by three usability experts.

For the evaluation, eight user tests were conducted with different software products and analysed both by the IUR method and the detailed analysis. The results of both methods were compared in terms of effectiveness and efficiency.

It was shown that the IUR method was well applicable for user tests in the required way. In comparison with the detailed analysis, the method detected 75.5% of the problems in 64.6 % of the time. Also the delay was significantly shorter in the IUR method.

Further studies are necessary to investigate if the IUR method can actually be integrated in the agile development process.