



Date: Saturday, 01-24-2009

Session Title: How to work efficiently and develop software with Europeans and South Americans

Presenter: - Juan Sequeda

What should I take away from the session? (Summary):

Observations are based on Speakers experience with Columbia developers and Swiss business partners and are meant to give a deeper understanding of the two cultures

Notes (key points, book suggestions, website suggestions, etc)

South American (Columbia)

- Unlike the US, South American colleges are not theoretically oriented but professionally oriented. A Computer Science major is required to take courses such as Requirements, Software testing and Quality Assurance and graduating thesis would be to create functional software
- Developers are not code monkeys. They are able to analyze material thoroughly and give multiple solutions to a problem
- Culture is very laid back and strives to be stress free
- Chile is similar to England in culture and is the exception to observations sometimes
- Having a resource who understands the South American Culture to help bridge with other cultures is important
- Language is not a barrier. Most South Americans know English very well. Classes are taught in Spanish but the materials were in English.
- Travelling to Columbia and South America is safer than in the past due to government push for tourism and international business

Europe (Switzerland)

- More conservative and formal
- Perfectionist, did not want to risk selling product with any bugs. Project took 1.5 years to release
- Failure is socially wrong
- Strict about not working during vacations unlike a lot of American companies
- International Contracts or SOW require "Apostille" from Texas government in Austin
- May want to create a glossary or define deliverables. Ex. After gathering requirements, team presented a demo of major functionality to Swiss business partners. Demo did not go well because there were bugs in program though demo was meant to demonstrate look feel and major functionality only.
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