

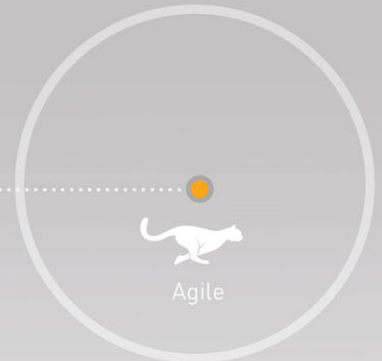
# Wild West

to

# Agile



Roots of Agile



**JIM HIGHSMITH**

Forewords by **Martin Fowler** and **Heidi J. Musser**

## Praise for *Wild West to Agile*

"Jim Highsmith is the Forrest Gump of software development. What made the 1994 movie so entertaining was how frequently Forrest found himself in the right spot as history was being made. Unlike Forrest, though, Jim's actions influenced that history.

"Jim tells us stories from his early-career involvement in the Gemini and Apollo space projects and then working as a leader to bring about the shift to structured methods. From there he outlines how approaches such as Rapid Application Development planted the seeds that became agile software development.

"Throughout, Jim played a part in bringing about the changes that moved software development out of its Wild West beginnings and into its Agile present. The stories Jim tells in this book are entertaining and educational, and will be important to remember as we move into whatever the future holds for software development."

—**Mike Cohn**, co-founder of the Agile Alliance and the Scrum Alliance; author of *Succeeding with Agile*

"Jim provides a unique perspective not just from the sidelines, but from out on the playing field. If you want to understand the shape of software development today, this is the book for you. If you want to understand how to navigate a turbulent career with grace and style, this is also the book for you. If you enjoy memoirs, ditto. Since I first encountered him in the 1990s, Jim has been my model of a steady, thoughtful leader. Enjoy his story."

—**Kent Beck**, Chief Scientist, Mechanical Orchard; author, *Extreme Programming Explained: Embrace Change*

"A magnum opus from master storyteller, adventurer, nonconformist, and adaptable agile maven Jim Highsmith. With this braided narrative, Jim defines what it means to be truly agile, both personally and organizationally. A must-read for a fascinating first-person perspective and invaluable insights into the past, present, and future of agility. I haven't enjoyed a book as much in a very long, long time."

—**Sanjiv Augustine**, Founder and CEO, LitheSpeed

"The phrase 'been there, done that' has rarely been as true as it is for Jim Highsmith and his long and varied career in software. Jim is a great storyteller, and this book tells great stories about many of the leaders of our industry. Enjoy the ride!"

—**Rebecca Parsons**, Chief Technology Officer, Thoughtworks

"The evolution of the software industry from its humble beginnings is captured in a way that only Jim Highsmith can. His coupling of the historical evolution of the software industry with his own personal experiences helps to bring greater insight to the reader as he explains the driving business factors that led to the creation and evolution of the agile software movement. This is not just a walk down memory lane. As an

# Wild West to Agile: Adventures in Software Development Evolution and Revolution

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