

# The Buddy System: A Look at Pair Programming

Agile Day Twin Cities  
November 2, 2012

# Agenda

- Who Am I?
- Who Are You?
- The Buddy System
- What's the Big Deal?
- Why is it so Hard?
- Let's Pair!
- Questions

# Who Am I?

- Jenna Pederson
- Programmer-geek, lover of learning
- 10+ years in the software space

Who Are You?

# The Buddy System

- Two programmers, one computer
- Operate as a single unit to keep an eye on and support each other
- Take on complementary roles



What's the Big Deal?



Image: busy-pochi / <http://www.flickr.com/photos/busy-pochi/>

# Improved Quality



# Knowledge Transfer



Get Things Done

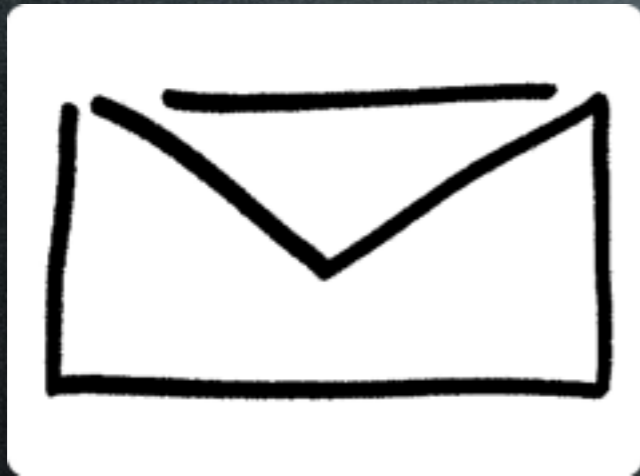


Image: timothymorgan / <http://www.flickr.com/photos/timothymorgan/>



Image: beaugiles / <http://www.flickr.com/photos/beaugiles/>



Image: keiva / <http://www.flickr.com/photos/keiva/>



Image: thunder / <http://www.flickr.com/photos/thunder/>



Image: chelmsfordpubliclibrary / <http://www.flickr.com/photos/chelmsfordpubliclibrary/>

# Less Distractions



Image: oklanica / <http://www.flickr.com/photos/oklanica/>

# Why is Pair Programming Hard?

# Common Excuses

and the Solutions

- Programmers are Introverts.
- I have a personal “bubble” and I don’t want you in it.
- You’re going too fast for me to keep up.
- You’re going too slow. I’m getting bored.
- My partner is always multi-tasking on a second computer.
- My pair is a keyboard hog.

- My partner is telling me which characters to type!
- How do I convince management?
- It costs twice as much to hire two people to do one person's job.
- My team is distributed and remote pairing is hard.
- My team sets their own hours.
- I'm getting sick of my pair partner.
- My pair partner smells.



Image: lorenzo-bros / <http://www.flickr.com/photos/lorenzo-bros/>

# Let's Pair!

# Scoring a Bowling Game

- A “game” has 10 frames
- Score for a frame is the number of pins knocked down in both “rolls” + extras for strikes and spares
- Player can “roll” a ball to knock down some pins
- At the end, a game can be “scored”



Questions?

# Thank You!

Feedback: <http://spkr8.com/t/18051>

Twitter: @jennapederson

Blog: [www.jpедersonconsulting.com/blog](http://www.jpедersonconsulting.com/blog)