

XP Days Benelux 2005 – Participant Feedback

Number of participants: ± 75

Number of returned feedback forms: 48

How did you find out about the conference?

- Marc Evers told me
- www.google.com: “xp conference” -> I feel lucky; no seriously: one of our customers were going and I thought it was great and decided to join
- I train (-> Pair Programming) with the people who organize the event
- I went to the previous conference, mentioned at XPBE meetings
- colleagues
- super!
- word of mouth
- Pascal Van Cauwenberghe
- Last years
- XP-NL
- announcement in newsgroup
- colleagues being speaker
- previous edition, XP-BE list
- Attended previous XP Day Benelux
- web, previous, mail
- colleagues from EMC, last XP session
- colleagues
- GREAT! :-)
- through Remco, a friend
- my employer pointed it out to me
- internet
- found it by accident on the web; the cynefin framework made we join this
- big improvement
- Pascal
- Call for submission (relayed by the xp-day team, and Laurent on French mailing list)
- I liked it
- Cool
- Organisers
- I wasn't allowed to forget – XP2004!
- Good conference, I give it an 8
- Was asked to design the website
- Great, even better than last year! A lot more on-the-job info
- Been there before
- Mailing-list
- Op verschillende manieren: ons team is actief lid van de XP gebruikersgroep NL en regelmatig de website bezoeken
[in different ways: our team is actively participating in the Dutch XP user group; visiting the website regularly]
- Via a colleague
- Agile Open e-mail invitation
- Colleague
- We talk about it on XP France list
- Colleague
- via mijn bedrijf [via my company]
- XP.BE
- colleagues
- Nice way to learn new ideas & methods
- I misspelled a URL :-) no, recommendation from a customer
- From a customer
- Colleagues

What did you like?

- The 'open atmosphere'; the creativity, the fun.
- Enthusiastic speakers. Informal setting and atmosphere. Participants are friendly and open.
- Positiveism, the wish to evolve that lives in the participants
- good sessions, meeting people, interaction from audience, learning from each other, away from work, OOMPs, UOOMPS
- conference scale / a lot of inter-person interaction
- the interactive sessions where very inspiring. I learned a lot of each session
- the conference venue; community spirit; sessions
- Interactive presentations. No boring slides-only presentations

- 1. excellent program 2. easy to travel to conference location
- OOMPS
- the sessions, the people; sessions about people and people's interaction
- relax ambiance
- learned many techniques for improvement, mostly people-oriented; 2 days!
- it was extremely easy to find the location, being right next to the central station; I think that having 4 tracks was really good to give good choice
- Great energy; great sessions; great food; great location (convenient); great people; wifi
- breadth of subjects; conversation between presentations
- discussion within presentations
- dinner
- meeting bright & open minded people; learning about amazing things
- workshops / games / interactivity
- organisation; subjects; people there
- The atmosphere and the things I learned
- I'm a newbie to xp so I liked learning more about the subject
- conference program on A5 format; 2 days program (not too short, not too long)
- +++ Cynefin; + Balancing act; ++ Visual visions; + Lightning writing; + Tool weapons
- 2 days more interesting sessions
- Great session, every one of them in which I participated
- Atmosphere, respect of time table, people; quality of presentations, one minute ads & debriefs, smallness of Rotterdam, and goodies
- I especially like the games; getting hands-on experience in a light way
- Everything
- High energy days!
- All the sessions!! + quality much better than last year
- I like the place; I like the presenters; I like the sessions
- Meeting new people. Programm diversity; informal atmosphere; 1 minute commercials / 1 minute retro's
- team-feeling
- Meeting people; information
- Discussion. Input of new angles
- Nieuwe mensen leren kennen en enkele ervaringen uitwisselen. Er waren ook vooral veel niet technische sessies [Get to know new people and share some experiences. There were a lot of nontechnical sessions]
- The atmosphere, the knowledge of the presenters
- Out of box approach
- CMMI
- all, except first conf about Ruby, the time to start the engine
- Informal setting
- XP Pair Programming
- session words
- XP game
- the people & their meaning
- Many interactive sessions; not just XP methods and technique, but also focus on people, communication, complex systems, etc.
- Cynefin, Balancing Act, security requirements, writing workshops/session; the people and atmosphere; lots of interactive sessions which was great
- Variety of topics

What could be improved?

- Conference venue and organisation worked well. See comments on specific sessions
- everything can be improved, but I don't find that important. due to the nature of the event, it will always evolve in the good sense.
- longer gummybears; a way to get more people, maybe 2x 1 day -> no overnight stay
- food / drinks
- the infrastructure: rooms were badly climated (too hot!), milk? with lunch, no water during day
- conference dinner
- 1. venue was a little bit hot at times 2. bread rolls very dry
- more concrete things / examples
- have OOMRS (R = retrospect) at end of day (1 attendee gives 1 min summary)
- I would like to have had a 1-page per session description of each session (to help me to choose) within the folder of information for each participant; Ideally, sessions could be repeated , so where there is a clash, people could get to a different "showing".
- Tee-shirts for women (not shapeless bags) – ask Nynke :) ; Sharing the conference space with other groups
- will the presentations be put on the web?
- diner: 'more' hot food
- lunch time: not enough room

- Vegetarian dinner was absent
- more coding sessions
- Jidoka – it needed some “power” to encourage the “think tank”
- food was not bad, but dinner was not so good + very bad timing of “aanvullende voorraad” [“extra supply”]
- logistics: other, different drink (soft drinks) between sessions; sometimes very competing sessions at same time (I'm afraid it cannot be helped)
- Discourse XP vs. CMM, female t-shirt design; lunch food
- Sometimes groups were relatively large for discussions
- Get Mr. Freeman vaccinated
- ?
- Need a quiet well-ventilated bar for evening socialising
- No traffic on my way to the conference; 2 days are very heavy
- Room freshness / airconditioning / temperature; coffee available all the time
- food ;) joking
- longer (short) breaks. not 15 minutes but 30
- Nothing obvious
- Misschien een nederlandstalige Xpdag(en) versie. Ik heb minder actief aan engelse sessies deelgenomen dan aan nederlandse. Verstaan gaat goed alleen uitdrukken in het engels blijft moeilijk [*perhaps a Dutch XP Day(s) version. I have participated in the English sessions less actively than in the Dutch sessions. Understanding goes well, expressing oneself in English remains difficult*]
- Sometimes discussions went too much off topic
- ?
- More testing related topics
- noise from air conditioning, and fridge or from neighbour (not another xp session)
- langere sessies met meer ??????? [*longer sessions with more ???????*]
- some sessions should be longer (leadership game)
- Program with description (or just a print option to print all descriptions in one page)
- Bigger rooms for the sessions, nicer city (?), ability to print whole program from the website (easily)

Which (new) things are you going to apply?

- Make a planning wall in our projectroom; discuss XP with our team and try to improve our XP methods; (read) the XP book (2nd version)
- Some aspects of Cynefin. Maybe the XP game. Mandalas & mind maps
- XP game
- Theory of Constraints; Jidoka; Pair drawing carroussel game to show advantages of pairing
- db refactoring / temperature reading
- I wish: temp reading, pair programming, XP
- database refactoring
- The way to track security requirements
- 1. mandalas 2. temperature reading
- mindmaps
- have to think...
- mindmapping
- mandala, mindmapping, lightning writing, perf. game, cynefin (ABIDE), dojo, go-game
- unit testing; perfection game technique
- Mandala (visual visions); “tool words” ideas
- database refactoring; test typology; TOC?
- DB refactoring; rails; writing lightning
- parts of temperature reading; planning
- at least things I learned in workshops
- Hopefully pair programming and temperature readings, definitely test-first
- I'm going to attempt to get pair programming accepted at work
- coding dojo sessions to practice more
- (leadership stuff); everything I learned in fact (in all sessions)
- A lot: learned in every session and will try to apply as much as possible
- Many, many ... Cynefin, “ab”-user stories, Jidoka rationale when talking about process improvement.
- Hopefully I can join an XP project to experience it myself
- Constructive feedback as in the perfection game
- more roleplaying
- dojo, db refactoring, cynefin, CMMi
- Writing lightning
- TOC; mandala / mindmap
- leadership-game; cynefin; temperature reading
- Rails T.o. Constraints
- Hexagonal system view
- Psychologische aspecten in een team. Hoe mensen reageren, dat herkennen en gebruiken [*psychological aspects*]

in a team. How people react, recognising and using that]

- May be do “dojo”
- Leadership; Mandala
- XP Game
- mandala, DB refactoring, english, hexagonal design, bottleneck destruction
- Perfection feedback
- subversion of words
- Depends on team. I hope pair programming and temperature reading
- Mandalas, ball games, thinking more in terms of Cynefin and the ABIDE method
- ABIDE methods for introducing change into a complex system. Writing methods

What would you like to investigate further?

- If I would fit in an XP team (as a programmer); but then I should qualify as a programmer again
- “solution selling” / “agile” contracts (not from a session but from talking to another person here). Cynefin. Writing
- leading teams / people
- theory of constraints; dojo / kata; balancing act / temperature reading / jidoka / perfection game
- ruby
- leadership, Ruby on Rails
- database refactoring
- weapon words
- Cynefin
- Rails
- mandala, mindmapping, lightning writing, perf. game, cynefin (ABIDE), dojo, go-game
- unit testing; just more of the same sort of things
- Cynefin (missed that session); Jidoka
- game; Rails
- leadership
- balancing act (stances)
- drawing carroussel; hexagonal architecture; lightning writing
- lots of things!
- agile development in general
- Cynefin; Tool weapons; Visual visions
- New XP (v2): apply (stories, ...); Rails (maybe); Human relation interaction and temperature reading; Balancing Act + thinking out of the box
- pair programming; facilitating management
- Cynefin, weapon words
- Writing XP stories
- Lightning writing
- dojo, db refactoring, cynefin, CMMi
- Yes
- freewriting; how to keep up my energy during such an exciting conference
- cynefin; leadership
- Rails
- Geek-nights Dojo-style
- Psychologische aspecten in een team. Hoe mensen reageren, dat herkennen en gebruiken [*psychological aspects in a team. How people react, recognising and using that]*
- Mandala; Cynefin
- all
- SW for your head
- testing related to xp/agile
- pair programming and temperature reading
- Cynefin; writing
- Cynefin, connection between goal oriented development and Cynefin method
- unit testing

What would you like to see in a next conference?

- results of XP teams: what are the teams actually doing in reality; what kind of projects, environments, customers, etc.
- I find the “why” more interesting than the “how”. Therefore Joseph Pelrine's session did a lot for me and I would love to see more like that
- Have no idea; most sessions surprised me in their effectiveness / usefulness
- More about: team practices; fighting non-believers; getting most value out of people
- more db refactoring / more down-to-earth technical sessions
- acceptance testing; more on testing generally; more code
- How to be able to introduce XP concepts in a non-agile company.
- BOF sessions

- more about changing departments towards agile
- XP v 3
- open talks, more attendees, time for BOF
- just more of the same sort of things
- More innovation in formats: sessions outside & in between (e.g. poster sessions)
- repeat of certain presentations of this year (you can't follow them all, you hear from other people that a presentation you missed was very good)
- female designed t-shirt
- Don't know, because it's all very new
- More Cynefin; more "how to handle chaos"; more "word weapons"
- database refactoring + automatic diffs; be able to do more sessions (how?)
- Some session I did not have the change to follow because of following another one or some actual sessions deepened (part two's / extended)
- Same (yet new) original topics
- How does architecture fit in?
- A bit more technical related issues
- BoFs? An experience report or two?
- I think about it
- New people; more people / better marketing; better facilities for people driving cars; parking/reachability; 1 minute commercial & retro's – do them shorter on the sessions
- more leadership, more non-coding
- Rails Xperience
- Hit me.
- Meer nederlandse sessies, contiueren niet technische psychologische aspecten/sessies [*More Dutch sessions; continue nontechnical psychological aspects/sessions*]
- Something about refactoring
- I'm not a bottleneck
- More testing subjects
- new ideas, like this year
- ?
- The perfection game, responsibility driven development
- more
- Do not know

Session feedback

Session	What did you like?	What could be improved?
XPv2	like informational session about the status, latest changes etc.	-
XPv2	good overview; good questions & answers	
Introduction to XP v2	Being new to XP, I liked everything!	
Introduction to XP	informative	
Introduction in XP	Good info about the two versions	not allowed to ask questions in first ½ hour so things were not clear
Leiderschapsspel	To participate in different roles, structure, feedback	Groups was large: maybe smaller group to have more time for evaluation per person
leadership game	great way to show different leaders	
Leadership	great!	
Grok talks	Spontaneous talks	Try to convince participants beforehand to have a talk: I would like more grok talks
groktalks	Daily training incentive	I liked the method used in 2004 a lot
Drawing Carroussel	Concept & structure: "goed geleid!"	-
pair drawing carrousel	excellent session; now I know another way to show people the value of PP	do this session again close to my company, so I can send some people!
Drawing Carroussel	great way to show PP	
Drawing carroussel	Thorough & deep experience of team work & comm. through PP	

Session	What did you like?	What could be improved?
The drawing carousel: a pair programming experience	Very practical, fun to do	A little bit more introduction / guidance for newbies like me would probably result in deeper understanding
the drawing carousel	great way of learning about xp and pair programming	needs a bit more structure for my taste
Jidoka	Nice idea	... but it never really worked. Had some nice discussion but we never got close to any ways of working with this in the real world
Jidoka in software development	build your own methodology perfecting along the way	
Jidoka		The session presenter ought to come with a clear message in the start and then have some extra "food" for the discussion to when the discussions slow down
Jidoka	Interesting thoughts	More applications
Lightning Writing	Very simple but a real eye-opener for me. Great	Maybe more time?
Lightning Writing		Too short to be really useful
Lightning writing	technique, exercises	longer session
Lightning writing	Useful and inspirational	Impossible
Writing Lightning		More time
Lightning writing	feedback	energy exercises in between
Writing light	Alternative ways to write	Big group, took a long time to iterate through each member's experience
I'm not a bottleneck, I'm a free man	excellent session, I;m a new ToC consultant now!	it has already improved hugely since the last time I saw the session! boats + hats is a nice product
Bottleneck	simulation	have a bottleneck simulation to take home
TOC	solving REAL problems	?
Beware CMMI for agile teams	good intro in CMMI; good discussion, comparison from agile to CMMI	
XP Game	Very cool. Good teaching tool.	A little more discipline :) (there was a lot of noise, people would interrupt or talk during presentations)
XP Game	balloons, concept	longer session to do 3 iterations
XP Game	Fun, useful lessons	More time
The XP game	Nice way to learn planning	A little too much discussion caused a third iteration could not be done
The XP game	great!	
Coder's Dojo	Looking critically at code in 2 / group	Code review i.s.o. kata. Have API available
Dojo	practical, applicable for teaching / learning	confusion between 2 exercises, technical issues (editors)
Coder's dojo	Very like the idea and concepts and 'openness'	Structure during the session: what are we doing when
The coder's dojo	Enthusiasm and openness of presenters	Because of too great detail of feedback from public, I lost the overall picture
Cynefin	ABIDE	more about other parts
Cynefin	Interesting	More quickly off of problem and onto solutions

Session	What did you like?	What could be improved?
Cynefin	Caused me to reflect more on what I am doing exactly	
Visual visions	mandala, many examples	more real life examples
Visual Visions	Very practical. useful tools	More visual stuff in the presentation slides :)
Visual visions	teamwork	add a "female" presenter
Perfection game	fun, practical, applicable	
Perfection game	Very simple but useful technique	Impossible
Introducing Unit Tests	Useful overview	More on general setting of unit tests structure
From legacy to agility: introducing unit tests	Directly applicable in my work	
Improving your testing	Interesting testing techniques + methods	Much more on the relation to "agile" - it was not really relevant to agile.
Improving your testing		although there was a lot of conversation, the presentation didn't got alive
Improving your tests		more interactive
Ruby on Rails	Intro of interesting framework, show setup interactively	a bit better overview at the beginning
RAILS	very lively conversation; presentations adapted to this very well	
Rails hype	Very good overview of R, enthusiastic people; envolved audience	
Rails	New technology	more overview; too much focussed on Active Record
Balancing act	from 27s -> 1s, what an amazing achievement, very inspiring for change experience commun. problems	
Temp reading	great way to use it in team meetings	
Temperature reading	The concept, I hope to be able to introduce it at work	
temperature reading	good way to keep your team pleasant and constructive	
Temperature reading	Was new for me	Use more concrete real situations
Temperature reading	Introduction to it	-
Extreme relational database refactoring	interactive discussion	Too much repetition of similar things
extreme relational database refactoring		this was a bad choice for me because it taught me nothing new
Relational DB refactoring	The patterns	The relationship with XP wasn't explicitly named
Tool weapon		It took some time to "get the pont". That's <u>not</u> bad, but the session needed more time!!!
Tool words, weapon words	strange session but interesting	more clearly defined goal for the session might help

Miscellaneous



- (thumbs up)
- Great job!