

About Mark Lines, co-founder of UPMentors:

Mark Lines co-founded UPMentors in 2007, together with his colleagues Julian Holmes and Joshua Barnes, to support organisations in delivering complex software projects. Based in Calgary, Mark operates as a coach for organisations and projects seeking to improve their capability and maturity in the adoption of software development best practices.

Mark is a 'Disciplined Agile' specialist and has been building software for over 20 years for financial, retail, oil, gas and government organisations. He first started his career working as a developer for a small Systems Integration firm. He subsequently worked for Investors Group as a Systems Analyst and The North West Company as their Lead Software Designer. He then progressed to become Director of Software Development at INSI before joining IBM Rational Software as a software engineering specialist. Mark was also a partner at an IT and management consultancy company, Sierra Systems. Mark then went on to hold engineering and mentor positions before co-founding UPMentors in May 2007.

Mark is well-known internationally and is respected for his in-depth knowledge and passion for Iterative and Agile project management and has established a reputation for his high level of professionalism and delivery of IT process mentoring and coaching.

At UPMentors Mark is renowned for delivering a mixture of interactive experience-based learning workshops and classroom training sessions to suit needs of participants; whether they are instructor led, via on demand web conferencing or computer based training. He also does hands-on work, working side-by-side with other team members delivering work products in his mentoring capacity. This results in true knowledge transfer, as well as delivering real value on the project at hand.

Mark has a BSc degree in Computer Science from Brandon University, facilitates IBM's Methods discussion forum and teaches both IBM Rational and UPMentors courses across Canada. He is also an IBM developerWorks contributing author and writes for publications such as the IBM Rational Edge, the Agile Journal, and is an Agile dZone MVP author.

Mark is currently writing a book with Scott Ambler on IBM's approach to Disciplined Agile Delivery.

In his spare time, Mark enjoys golfing, skiing, and spending time with his family outdoors in the beautiful Rocky Mountains of western Canada.