

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Blu Tack

Name Simon Raik-Allen .

Job Chief technology officer.

Where MYOB.

Why is it important? Software engineering nowadays is largely done using an agile methodology where you use walls and cards.

During the past decade, software engineering has started to come out of the back room. For everything you do, there is a card. [In fact] cards travel across the wall and we fill walls with information. Every piece gets stuck there with Blu Tack.

To take up a task, you stick your picture on it. To indicate a task has a high priority, you stick a picture of an exclamation point on it – and so on. The agile methodology that Australia is particularly fond of values openness, transparency and communication. Product managers are continually looking at the cards every day to ensure the correct priorities for clients are being developed. It's also duplicated on the [computer] system.

What do your colleagues think?

A few years ago, as we started to change the way software engineering was done, there was a bit more resistance; but today most people love the process. It's done wonders for the way the world develops software.

Unusual moment? The other day I couldn't find any Blu Tack. I spotted some in a bin and reached down for it – and then realised it was someone's chewing gum.

How much does it cost? About \$2.10 a packet. **SUE WHITE**



In the cards ... Simon Raik-Allen.