The Agile Process

Making The Most of The Approach

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“We are uncovering better ways of developing software by doing it and helping others do it. Through this work we have come to value:

Individuals and interactions over processes and tools
Working software over comprehensive documentation
Customer collaboration over contract negotiation
Responding to change over following a plan
That is, while there is value in the items on the right, we value the items on the left more.”

– The Agile Manifesto

- Our highest priority is to satisfy the customer through early and continuous delivery of valuable software.
- Welcome changing requirements, even late in development.
- Agile processes harness change for the customer's competitive advantage.
- Deliver working software frequently, from a couple of weeks to a couple of months, with a preference to the shorter timescale.
- Business people and developers must work together daily throughout the project.
- Build projects around motivated individuals.
  Give them the environment and support they need, and trust them to get the job done.
- The most efficient and effective method of conveying information to and within a development team is face-to-face conversation.
- Working software is the primary measure of progress.
- Agile processes promote sustainable development.
  The sponsors, developers, and users should be able to maintain a constant pace indefinitely.
- Continuous attention to technical excellence and good design enhances agility.
- Simplicity--the art of maximizing the amount of work not done--is essential.
- The best architectures, requirements, and designs emerge from self-organizing teams.
- At regular intervals, the team reflects on how to become more effective, then tunes and adjusts its behavior accordingly.

Embracing Agile

- 80/20 Rule
- We do not know what we do not know
- Incremental Change and Momentum
- Reduced “Next Version” cost
- Windows of Opportunity
- Self Documentation

The 80-20 Rule

- 80% of the effort goes into 20% of the solution
- Aim for 80% solution
- Leaves room for change
- Refine in later sprints
- Progress while solving big problems

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What Lies Ahead?

- Define and Design What You Know
- Create a questions or to be defined list
- Implement what you can, push back what you can not
- Avoid coding into corners
- Design, do not just implement

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Momentum

- Visible goals and technical debt (80/20?)
- Find defined paths rather than guess
- Low hanging fruit
- Create foundations and frameworks as needed
- Build in testing and infrastructure tools
- Tell a story with each sprint

In the next version…

- Reduce fear of never getting a response
- Natural priority
- Limit stretch goals
- Focused development
- Less Death March

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Next Version…

- Big Changes and Usability (caution)
- Build trust
- Quick turn-around on fixes
- Clarifications and RAD approach
- Shells and clickable demos

Windows of Opportunity

- React quickly
- Short term goals and tools
- Adjust to market or customers
- First to market
- Build on what you have (G&R)

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Self Documentation

- Change list/Release notes
- Commit comments
- Test Results (Known issues/gaps)
- Open Questions/To Be Defined

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Final Thoughts

- Agile provides way to speed delivery
- Design and thoughtful coding is still required
- Steady Progress and incremental change
- Focused Work/Less Switching Gears
- Questions? Comments?

What We Learned

- Agile is a process, not an excuse to skip design
- The goal is still providing solutions
- Communication is always a critical factor
- Best Practices lead to a full product in the end

Thank You!

I appreciate your time and would love to discuss any of this further. You can send questions, comments and suggestions through any of these methods.

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