Agile Project Management Essentials

Jelena Roljevic
Assistant Vice President for Business Intelligence

October 28/29, 2015
What is a project?

• Project is a temporary endeavor undertaken to create a unique product, service or result.
  – temporary in that it has a defined beginning and end in time, and therefore defined scope and resources.
  – unique in that it is not a routine operation, but a specific set of operations designed to accomplish a singular goal

PMI’s A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK® Guide)
What is project management?

• Project management is the application of knowledge, skills, tools, and techniques to project activities to meet the project requirements.

PMI’s A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK® Guide)
Tradi3onal Approach: Waterfall

Key attributes of Waterfall Approach
• Sequential process
• Change is disruptive and costly
• Customer feedback typically at the end

When to use it?
• Do you know exactly what you need?
• Do you have a clear picture of what the final product should be?
• No changes expected
What is Agile?

• A set of principles and practices that help teams deliver products in short cycles, enabling fast feedback, continual improvement, and rapid adaptation to change.

scrumalliance.org
Agile: Scrum in Practice

**THE PLAYERS**
- Product Owner,
- Team,
- and Scrum Master

**THE ARTIFACTS**
- Product backlog,
- Sprint backlog

**THE RITUALS**
- Backlog Grooming,
- Sprint Planning,
- Daily Scrum (aka 15-minute standup),
- the Sprint Review Meeting,
- and the Sprint Retrospective Meeting.
Agile: Scrum Board

Sprint 47 10/15 - 10/22

Unplanned

1. Demo DIT Dashboard to CHWayll (a-b/1/DIT dashboard)

2. Add Budget campus and instructional method to D-Course-Section (e-d, 3, Daus' dashboard)

3. Gift Officer ETL (a-c, 3, Advancement Decision Center)

4. Update D-Student - 3 columns (e-f, 3, Enrollment Mgmt Dashboard)

TEAM MEMBERS

IN PROGRESS

READY FOR REVIEW

DONE!

JOHN

MARGARET

NEERAJA

YING

ROGER

Mike

SARAATT_ATT_CODE (1st Gen)

GORVISA_VYP_CODE (International)
Benefits

- Active user/customer engagement throughout the project, from prioritizing features to iteration planning and review
- Unique opportunity for customer to be involved throughout the project
- Early, frequent and predictable delivery of smaller, valuable increments
- Opportunity to constantly refine and reprioritize the overall product backlog
- Focus on customer business value
- Building quality in, not adding it at the end
Agile vs. Waterfall

• Waterfall is based on Predictability
  – Feedback is usually not attained until late in the project
  – Works best when all details are known up front
  – Change is expensive

• Agile is based on Adaptability
  – Constant feedback
  – Allows for discovery throughout the lifecycle
  – Provides infrastructure to support and implement change
Agile and Non-Software Projects

In essence, the Agile methodology is about:

• Focusing on short iterations called ‘sprints’ of work, each delivering a working product increment;

• Scheduling regular team check-ins (stand-ups or *scrum* meetings) to maximize the exchange of relevant information while saving everyone time;

• Breaking project down into user-centric ‘stories’ that translate to tasks;

• Keep tasks assigned, estimated in hours/days and prioritized into a product backlog.
Agile and Self, Health & Wealth

• Agile-Self-organizing teams can radically outperform larger, traditionally managed teams

• Family-sized groups naturally self-organize when the right conditions are met:
  • members are committed to clear, short-term goals
  • members can gauge the group’s progress
  • members can observe each other’s contribution
  • members feel safe to give each other unvarnished feedback

• As a result, Agile teams:
  • Enjoy greater levels of success and increased job satisfaction
  • Have greater morale, achieve higher performance, and demonstrate significant increase in productivity
Key Takeaways

• Agile is about changing **the way people work**, it blends methodology, skills, tooling, coaching and organizational-wide collaborative attitude

• Agile development methodology helps organizations **build the right product**

• Agile is **enabling teams** to produce higher-quality solutions that better fulfill stakeholder needs more rapidly

• Agile eliminates “**analysis paralysis**”

• The results of this “**inspect-and-adapt**” approach to development greatly development costs

• Which methodology you chose **depends on project context**
Next Steps

• Get support from your management
• Evaluate your projects for fit with Agile
• Select Scrum team and get training
• Work with your customers (product owners) on developing and prioritizing the backlog
• Start working through your stories
• Periodically review and adjust your approach
Resources

• DIT Certified Scrum Masters that could help you jump start your Agile Scrum projects
• One page Agile Scrum “cheat-sheet”
• Scrum Alliance https://www.scrumalliance.org/
Thank You!