



Agile requirements engineering

Comparing development models

Theme	Agile approach	Traditional phased approach
Life cycle	iterative, incremental, from some weeks to months with a preference for short cycles.	Waterfall model, V model, in sequential phases without any possible feedback.
Planning	adaptive with multiple planning levels, with adjustments of requirements over the course of the project if necessary, depending of the occurred changes.	predictive, characterized by more or less detailed plans on the basis of a scope and requirements defined and stable at the beginning of the project.
Documentation of requirements	to create only if necessary in the appropriate moment in life cycle of project.	supplied in large quantity to support communication, validation and contracting.
Project team	made responsible and self-organized, where initiative and communication are preferred, supported (but not directed) by the project manager.	A team of experts mandated by project organization and orchestrated by a project manager.
Quality	Ongoing attention to technical excellence and quality of product design with an iterative quality control (testing).	Quality control at the end of the development cycle. The client discovers the finished product during user acceptance tests.
Accept change to requirements	Positively welcome changes within the process; exploit change in order to give competitive advantage to the customer.	Resistance and even opposition to change. Tolerance with heavy change management processes.
Track progress	A software or system that is operational is the primary measure of progress. Intermediate versions can be used immediately by the customer.	Measuring compliance with initial plans by gap analysis. No measurable version by the client available before the end of the project life cycle.
Risk management	Integrated risk management in the overall process.	Separate and rigorous risk management process.
Measuring Success	Customer satisfaction and user by delivering added value.	Respect initial commitments in terms of quality, cost and time.