

Agile vs. Waterfall development processes

The Agile development process can be described as an iterative, team-based approach to development. This development process emphasizes the rapid delivery of an application in complete functional components.

When comparing the Waterfall and Agile development processes, there are some differences that set the two apart.

The Waterfall process is linear in nature and each step in the process must be completed before the next one can begin. Within each of these steps are certain tasks that fit into a strict schedule that, when completed, must be reviewed by the customer before moving on the next step. It also may be necessary to go back to a previous step to correct any errors or other issues that can prevent the software from working.

The Agile system, alternatively, allows for more fluidity between steps and tasks are split into phases called “sprints.” Each sprint has a defined timetable, usually in weeks, with a constantly changing list of deliverables planned at the start of the start of the sprint. Work can be reprioritized if deliverables for the sprint are not completed. This information is then used for future sprint planning. As work is completed, it can be reviewed and evaluated by the project team and customer, through daily builds and end-of-sprint demos.