Agile and You

**Forward:**

* This purpose of this document is to provide a cut down Agile-Like framework that we used in our project, it worked for us. Hopefully it works for you too.

**What is Agile?**

* Agile is a project management technique created by the agile alliance; mainly for software development. It focuses on short term planning (Sprints), team co-operation (Scrums) and freely distributed information (Stand-ups).

**So, what’s a Scrum, Stand-up and sprint?**

* Sprints: A sprint is a period, usually one-two weeks which focuses around a goal set in advance. The goal should be small, and easily completable in that sprint.
* Scrums: A scrum is a session, or general philosophy. Which promotes group responsibility. This means that decisions are made as a group, rather then by a single project manager.
* Stand-up: A stand-up or daily stand-up is a short session where each member of a team talks about: what they did yesterday, what they are doing today, the improvements that can be made to make the job easier.

**The Agile Pipeline:**

1. To start with Agile, you need a plan. Start by having a brainstorming session and listing out all the tasks you need to do to complete your project. After this, break all these tasks down into week long Sprints, try to have the least number of tasks possible in each sprint.
2. Daily-Stand-Ups: Do them, seriously. The longer you do them, and the more discussions you have in them, the higher quality information you get from them. When you are a few weeks out and discover a problem, working it all out together as a team really helps. Stand-Ups help you find and fix problems.
3. The most important part of Agile is the scrum, make sure you have as many scrum sessions as you can. Try to talk about as much as you can to do with the project during these sessions. You would be surprised at the insights you will get from the other members of your team.

**So, what does this mean to me?**

* At the beginning of our project, we decided to use the Agile system. Over the course of our project we discovered the perks, and annoyances that Agile system presents. If you follow the tenets of agile discussed in my section of our presentation, and these guidelines, your projects will go far more smoothly and with less drama. Brainstorming is easy, jobs are allocated amicably, and work is done at a nice, small bitesize pace.