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Waterfall Vs. Agile Development

The waterfall methodology is a linear method that works where there are a bunch of separate stages the product must go through before it is finished. Each stage that the piece of software goes through is a crucial stage that must be completed before the next is even begun. Generally, once a stage is complete, the work must be reviewed and accepted before work can continue onto the next stage. Stages in the waterfall method include: Getting the requirements, Analysis, Design, Implementing, Testing, and Deployment. The waterfall method is very structured and preformed in blocks, allowing for progress to be easily measured.

The agile approach, on the other hand, is a more team based way of handling software development. Unlike the waterfall method, the schedule is created by using something called sprints. Sprints are little segments of the software that are given a time for how long it should take. Then those sprints are assigned to people in the team to get done. The agile approach has much more customer involvement than the waterfall method as there are much more reviews sessions after sprints are completed. Agile is better when you have a team of people who are 100% dedicated to the project. It requires more hands on both with the programmers and the customer.