

## **Change Management**

MDA402 Project Management

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#### **Lecture Overview**

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## Change Management Introduction

- proper and thorough planning of every project does not mean that it will be executed without disruptions
- every project must expect changes (due to any possible reasons) along the way
- change is inherent part of every project and obstacle that needs to be dealt with on the fly
- every project needs to have defined process how to manage change → change management

## Change Management Definition

Main context of change management is about managing **corporate** or **organizational** change.

#### Definition 10.1

#### Change management is:

- achieving an optimal design of the path from the starting point to the goal
- is to internally implement the optimal adaptation to external changes [6]

## Change Management Definition

**Change management** in IT is about managing a **change** throughout its **entire** life cycle, from start to closure. [1]

The main focus of change management in IT is managing **change of requirements** during delivery lifecycle according to the methodology used (agile vs. predictive)

#### Change can be:

- **ADDITION** → something starting completely new in addition to something existing
- MODIFICATION → enhancement of something existing
- REMOVAL → getting rid of something existing to start something new

## Change Management Definition

Difference between incident, problem and change [1]:

#### Incident

**Restoring** normal service operations after an unplanned disruption as soon as possible.

#### Problem

**Identifying the root cause** of disruptions to normal service operations (incidents).

#### Change

**Implementing a change** that addresses the root cause to prevent **fur**ther disruptions to normal service operations.

## Change Management **Objectives**

- manage each change request from initiation through to closure
- process change requests based upon direction from the appropriate authority
- communicate the impact of changes to appropriate personnel
- allow small changes to be managed with a minimum of overhead [2]

# Change Management Types of change

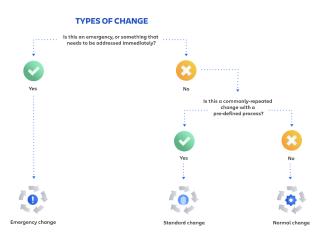


Figure: Types of change [3]

## **Change Management**

### Types of change

#### 1. Standard changes

- low-risk, commonly repeated and usually pre-approved
- examples: adding memory to the storage, creating new instance of a database, replacing failing router with a working one

#### 2. Normal changes

- non-emergency changes without defined and pre-approved processes
- these changes can be high-risk that require separate risk assessment, but also low-risk
- examples: migration from legacy to new platform, updating or enhancing existing system, performance improvements

#### 3. Emergency changes

- urgent, emergency changes arising from unexpected incident
- examples: resolving security data breach, implementing hot-fix to major functionality

It is clearly defined that **change** is expected part of agile methodology. From the definition of agile:

 vision is established at the start, but initial requirements are refined, CHANGED or replaced during project lifecycle

It is assumed that each of the requested **changes** creates an **acceptable amount** of change to agreed plan. The **frequency** of change in Agile creates mini waves of change to take place **alongside** delivery. [4]

Responding to the change over following a plan.

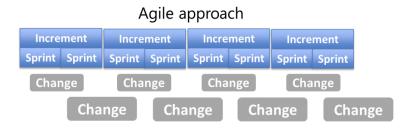


Figure: Illustration of change in agile [4]

#### Tips

- utilize regular meetings to discuss any possible changes to the requirements
  - **Sprint Review** → use to refine and update Product Backlog and facilitate identified changes
- include customers / clients to the delivery early enough → changes can be identified in advance with adequate time to respond
- embrace change → proactively respond to any change requests

#### Example from agile approach SCRUM:

- 1. Who is responsible for actions following a change?
  - **Product Owner**  $\rightarrow$  responsible for initial analysis and assessment of change request
  - SCRUM Master = Project Manager → responsible for communication towards the team, updating goals and priorities based on the outcome of change request's assessment
- 2. What happens after a change?
  - based on the PO assessment, there are two possible ways forwards:
    - a) Current sprint is terminated
    - b) Team continues current sprint
- 3. What needs to be updated after a change?
  - change is added to Product Backlog and goals and priorities are updated

# Change management in Agile Summary

- change management is a natural part of agile
- changes are processed and added to the Product Backlog without any major impact on the project
- there is no formal agenda or documentation regarding changes defined in agile
- only implication of requested change is if the current sprint will be terminated or finished according to the plan

Change brings uncertainty. And uncertainty is not welcomed when we are talking about predictive methodology. From its definition:

high level of CERTAINTY regarding what project should deliver is expected from the start

Therefore, the **changes** are not embraced in predictive projects. As the requirements are analyzed **at the start** and project plan is created **upfront**, every requested change can **massively** influence any of the triple constraint in project triangle  $\rightarrow$  creates **uncertainty** which is unwelcome.

### Tips

- clear communication and detailed discussion with customer / client is crucial → after change is assessed both parties needs to agree on next steps and how to proceed
- usually the best way how to process the change and deliver it is to deal with it as separate mini project
  - follows its own delivery lifecycle
  - has its own separate project triangle that needs to be managed

#### Definition 10.2

**Change request** is an official document addressing in details **specifics** of the change.

- every project needs to define a process how to respond to the change request:
  - Who is responsible for actions following a Change requests?
  - Where do we document Change request?
  - What happens after a Change request?
  - What needs to be updated after a Change request?



Figure: Change request form example [5]

# Change management in Predictive Summary

- change management in predictive approach is very formal process
- change is analyzed and documented in detail
- the decision needs to be made based on the estimated effort of change and how it will affect the price of the product
- the result of this change management process can be also signature of new addendum to the contract

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Thank You for Your Attention!