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Waterfall Model vs Agile Development

The agile software development model is a rapid, team based approach to building and developing software. The agile model is different from the waterfall model in the way work is scheduled. In the agile model work is not scheduled, rather all work is “time-boxed” into phases of development which are referred to as “sprints.” The agile model is also newer than the waterfall model. It relies very heavily on customer involvement in the development process. The agile process can output a basic model of the full software and it gives time to market a fuller version. This process also focuses on the user, which waterfall development sometimes does not do. This higher degree of customer involvement and user-facing comes with certain pitfalls though, for instance, a customer might not have the time or the interest for the level of involvement needed in the agile development process. The team based style of development can also be hindered by location or poorly planned meetings and poor time management. I have found that the waterfall method is more stable, and more steady; everything is planned accordingly and scheduled so that work may be done as quickly as possible. The agile method relies heavily on teams and customer involvement, this can lead to some problems. Overall both are strong models and should be used accordingly for the situation, some projects might need the agile model while others might only need the simpler waterfall model.