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Software Development 204

Agile Development vs Waterfall Model

The Waterfall Model is a standard way to design and create software. It is a series of steps, starting with the client's requirements and specification, moving into design, going into creation, then testing, and ending in a completed product. This is a linear series of events, making it easy to tell just how far you are with reference to the finished product.

Agile Development takes a different approach to software development. Rather than working through a series of steps, developers work in iterations. These iterations are shorter milestones where all functions of software creation work at once. At the end of each iteration, the goal is to have a working product, however close to finished it may be. Testing is usually done at the end of each iteration.

The major difference between the two is scale. The Waterfall Model tries to take what the customer wants, then plan out the entire software and create it all at once. This means that the long process has to restart if extra specifications or requirements come into play. Agile Development, on the other hand, keeps the scale small, often working on only a few features each iteration. This means that new features can more quickly and easily be added.