

## **Article Review: Observation on Balancing Discipline and Agility**

The major methodologies of Software development which are the agile software development and plan driven approaches each have some benefits and problems over each other. So, there is a need to balance both approaches to make things robust. The paper aims at some observation.

Agile methodology allows flexibility and invisibility using shared knowledge of team members, but agile methodologies do not work well to scale up large and complex projects but plan driven approaches allow this but at the cost of a lot of heavy documentation which is too much time consuming. There are some home grounds of Agile and Plan driven in terms of Applications, Management, Technical Details and Personnel. Some of home grounds are with terms to Application is that agile methodology is used for fast changing applications which requires a lot of change but in plan driven methods there a lot of assurance, stability, and predictability. Also agile is more suitable for smaller teams but plan driven is better for larger teams. There is a lot of freedom and flexibility in terms of requirements and way of work in Agile which is not there in plan driven approach.

Next, in today's modern software development it is possible to have large complex projects with constantly changing requirement and hence there should be some hybrid approach that takes in the best of agile and plan driven methodology. So nowadays there are some balanced methods such as Lean Development, DSDM which are emerging to solve the problem and allow both plan driven and agile methodology in large complex projects. One of the interesting approaches called as AgilePlus uses XP practices in addition to situation audits, business analysis and on demand generation of documents. The plan driven approach considers everything while developing which expert can do non-experts find it difficult to carve out every detail and here agile has better approach where they start with bare minimum and scale up as and when requirement occur which are cost beneficial. So, there are some efforts going on where building plan driven approach using incremental cycle is used.

Agile process focuses more on people, values, and communication and less on methods. Separation of concern in software development is huge problem and going ahead it could be harmful so there are ways in process to solve this. Also, agile development focuses more on clear communication which is very useful in software development. But with this constant communication raises problem and there are only few sources that define what is the best way of communication some models communicate only at a later stage and not from start. So to balance both we need mixed approach that takes best of both such as taking flexibility of agile but add software dependability with plan driven approach.

I believe that going ahead a dynamic approach is required because we must meet customer requirement and needs with software but at the same time do it with appropriate cost and scheduling. Each of the method has its own benefits and dynamic approach should be built on taking best of both.