

# Agile and Why It Works

An Overview of Agility



# Overview

- **Comparing Development Processes**
- **What Agile Is and Is Not**
- **Contemporary Agile Methodologies**



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# Comparing Development Processes

Agile and Plan Driven

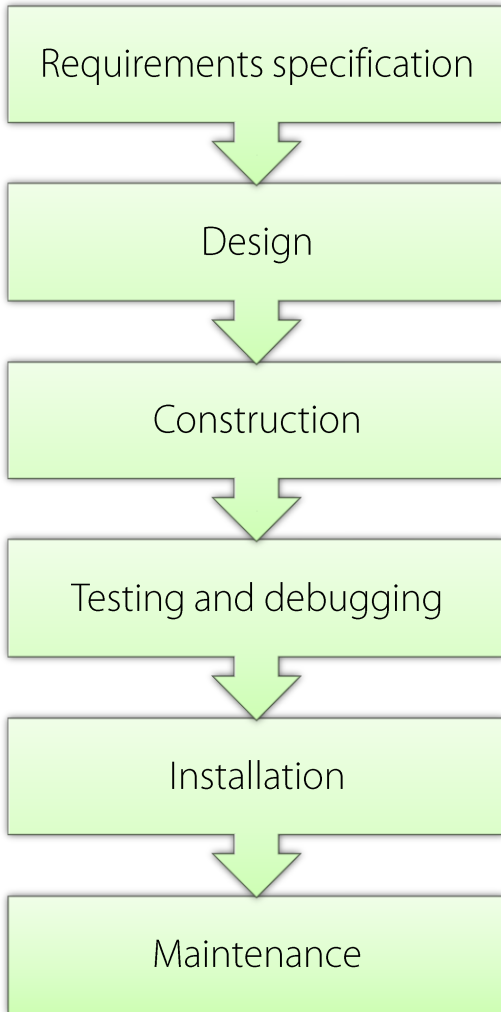
# Winston Royce's Waterfall Model

From the 1970 IEEE paper:  
*"Managing the Development of  
Large Software Systems"*

A careful reading of Royce's paper reveals:

1. Each phase should pass iteratively to the next
2. The entire process should be exercised twice before release
3. Royce knew that a single pass will fail

*"Unfortunately, for the process illustrated, the design iterations are never confined to the successive steps."*



# The Agile Manifesto

## Original Signatories

**Kent Beck**

**Mike Beedle**

**Arie van Bennekum**

**Alistair Cockburn**

**Ward Cunningham**

**Martin Fowler**

**James Grenning**

**Jim Highsmith**

**Andrew Hunt**

**Ron Jeffries**

**Jon Kern**

**Brian Marick**

**Robert C. Martin**

**Steve Mellor**

**Ken Schwaber**

**Jeff Sutherland**

**Dave Thomas**

# Manifesto for Agile Software Development

We are uncovering better ways of developing software by doing it and helping others do it. Through this work we have come to value:

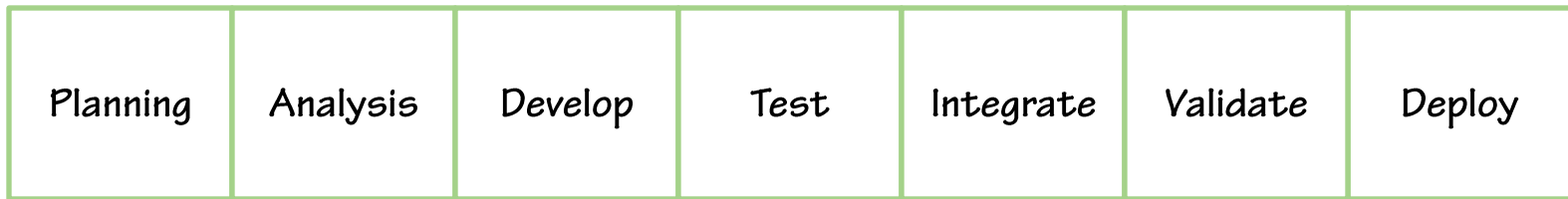
**Individuals and interactions** over **processes and tools**  
**Working software** over **comprehensive documentation**  
**Customer collaboration** over **contract negotiation**  
**Responding to change** over **following a plan**

That is, while there is value in the items on the right, we value the items on the left more.

<http://agilemanifesto.org>

# The Big Difference

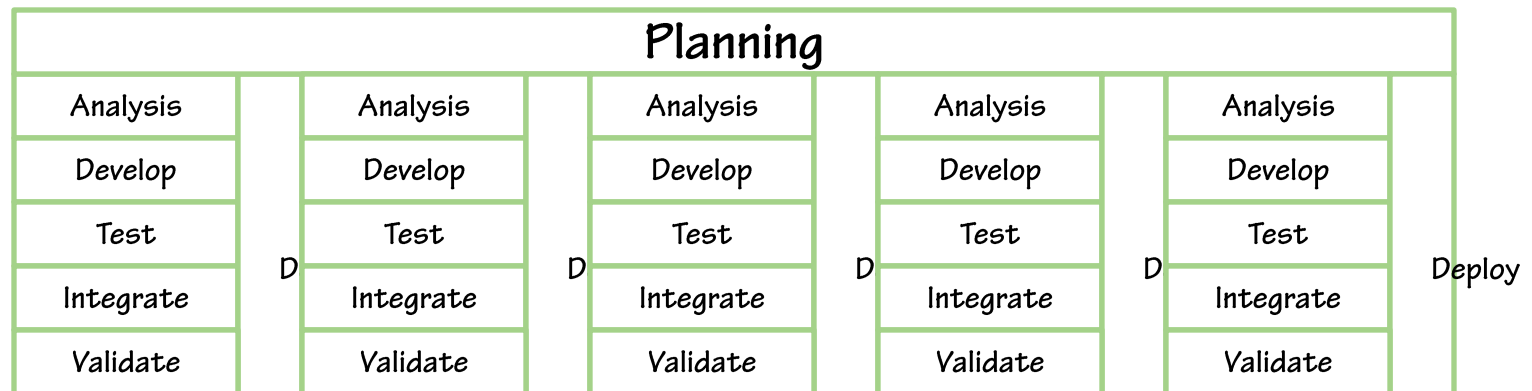
## Plan Driven Software Development



Time



## Agile Software Development



# Comparing Methodologies

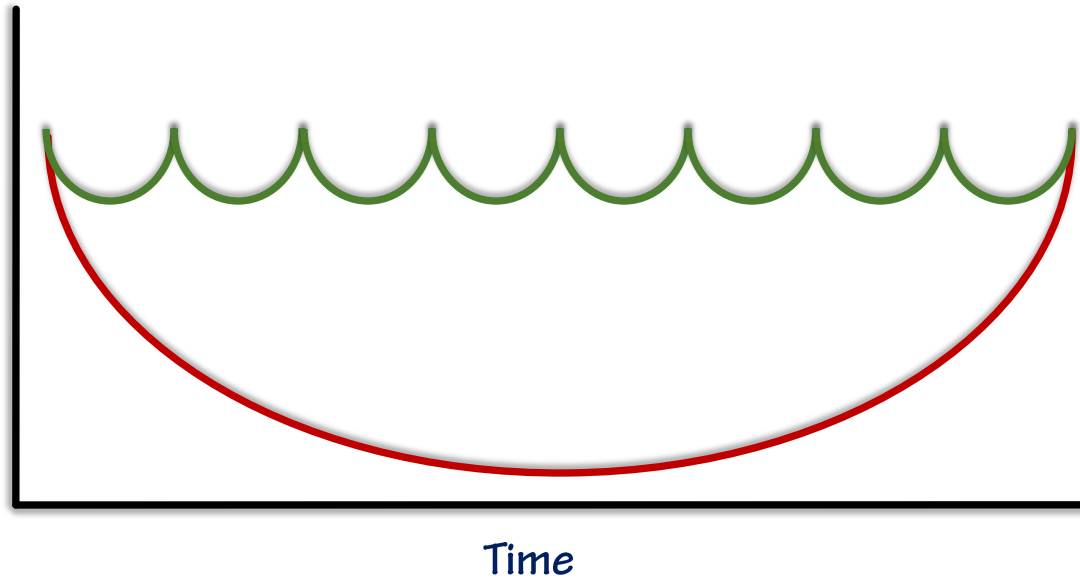
Plan Driven Methodologies	Agile Methodologies
Change is bad, therefore discouraged and actively controlled	Change is inevitable and valuable, therefore encouraged and embraced
Adherence to the plan determines success or failure	Incentives are often based on customer satisfaction and ROI
I am done when my part of the plan is signed off	I am done when the customer is happy



# Comparing Methodologies

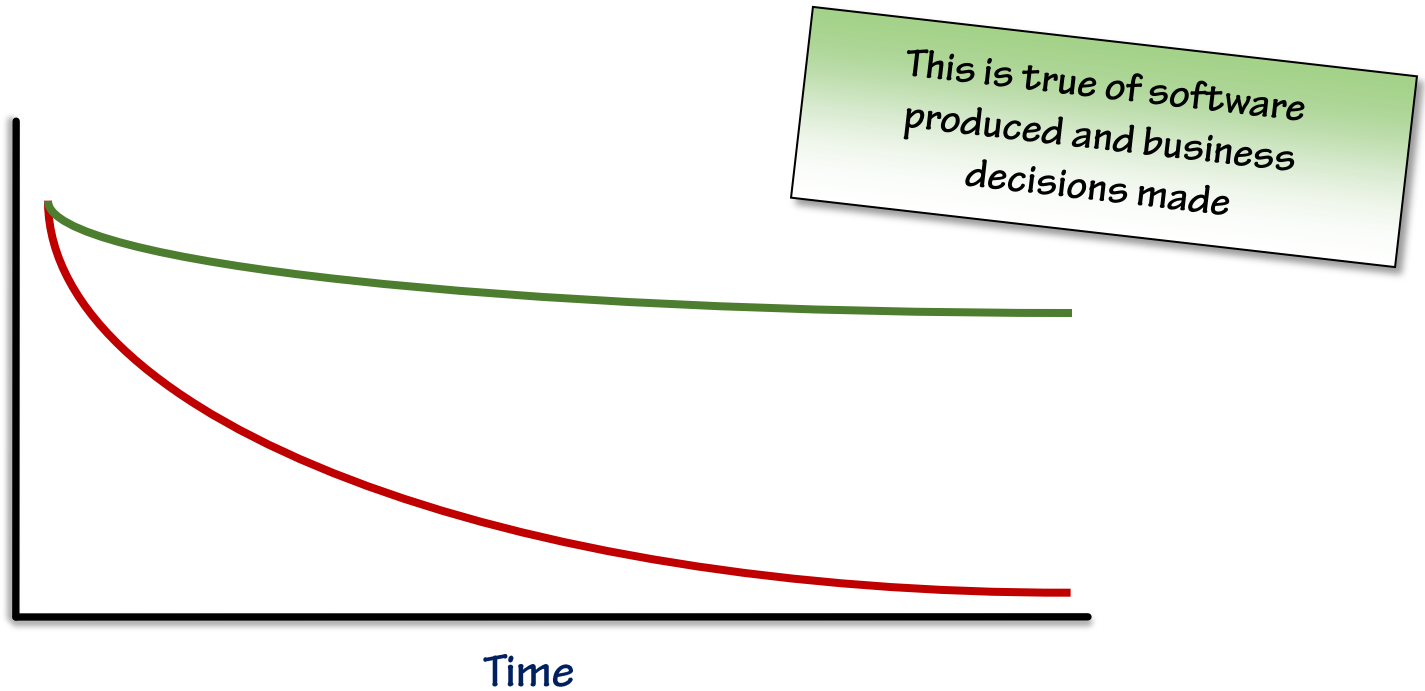
Plan Driven Methodologies	Agile Methodologies
Lots of gates to control quality	Highly iterative to achieve quality
Inspect product when it is complete	Inspect work as it is being done
Start by predicting what will be delivered	Start with a goal of filling a need

# Visibility



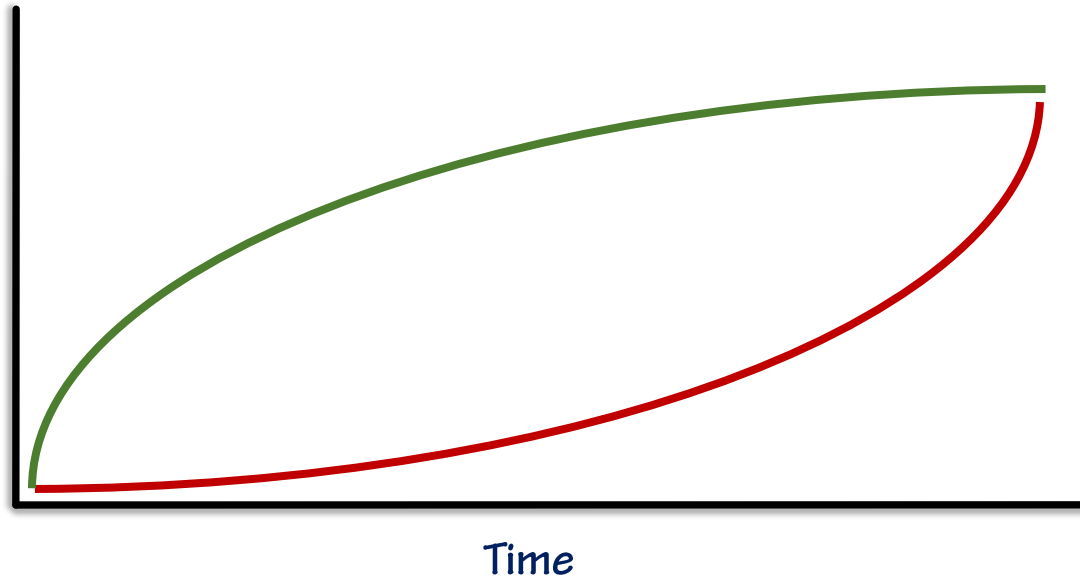
- Agile Software Development
- Plan Driven Development

# Ability to Change



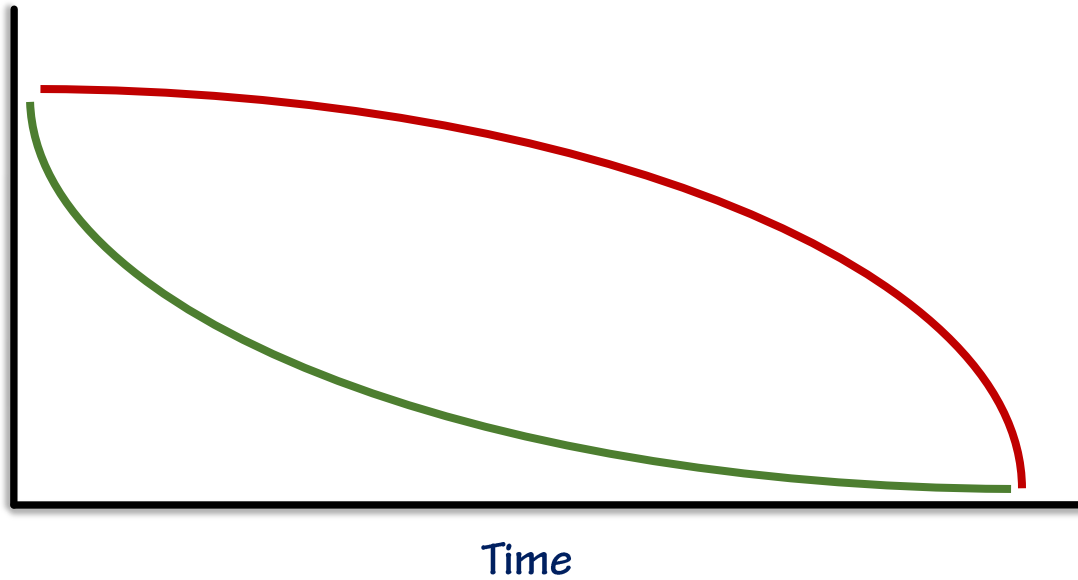
- Agile Software Development
- Plan Driven Development

# Business Value



- Agile Software Development
- Plan Driven Development

# Risk



- Agile Software Development
- Plan Driven Development

# What Agile Is and Is Not

Dispelling Common Myths

# What is Agile?

Plenty of opinions  
and  
a lot of white noise



# Touchstones of Agility

## Documents

- The Manifesto
- The Declaration for Interdependence

## Principles

- Iterative Delivery
- Frequent Feedback
- Transparency and Openness
- Lean Principles

*Come back to these  
things to recall  
what we are trying  
to accomplish*



# The 2 Parts of the Agile Discussion

## Processes and Methodologies

### Working with people

- Planning
- Teamwork
- Engaging customers
- Providing leadership
- Collaboration
- Learning

## Techniques and Practices

### Working with software

- Design
- Coding
- Testing
- Deploying
- User experience



Buzzword  
alert

# The 2 Parts of the Agile Discussion

## Processes and Methodologies

- Adaptive Software Development
- Agile Modeling
- Agile Unified Process
- Crystal Clear
- Dynamic Systems Development Method
- eXtreme Programming
- Feature Driven Development
- Lean Software Development
- Scrum
- Feature Driven Development
- User Stories

## Techniques and Practices

- Automated Regression
- Behavior Driven Development
- Continuous Integration
- Design Patterns
- Domain Driven Design
- DRY, SoC, Reuse, Testability
- Incremental Design
- JIT Architecture
- Separation of Concerns
- Pair Programming
- Refactoring
- Test Driven Development

# Agile Is

- Iterative
- Adaptive
- Value based
- Easy to understand
- Hard to implement

*True for  
practices and  
methodologies*

# Agile Is Not

- Just about writing code
- Undisciplined
- Unstructured
- Whatever you want it to be
- A placebo for those pesky developers

*True for  
practices and  
methodologies*

# Contemporary Agile Methodologies

Proven Practices

# Extreme Programming (XP)

- The ancestor of most Agile methodologies
- Originated with Kent Beck in 1999
- Blends processes and practices
- Found success is smaller teams
- XP became controversial early on due to advocates teaching it as dogma

# Extreme Programming (XP)

Kent Beck's basic idea

1. Take observed effective team practices
2. Push them to extreme levels

Good Practice	Pushed to the Extreme
Code Reviews	Pair Programming
Testing	TDD and constant regression
Software Design	Relentless Refactoring
Simplicity	The simplest thing that could possibly work
Integration Testing	Continuous Integration
Short Iterations	The Planning Game

# XP's 12 Practices



1. The Planning Game
2. Small Releases
3. Metaphor
4. Simple Design
5. Testing
6. Refactoring
7. Pair Programming
8. Continuous Integration
9. Collective Ownership
10. On-site Customer
11. The 40-hour Week
12. Coding Standards

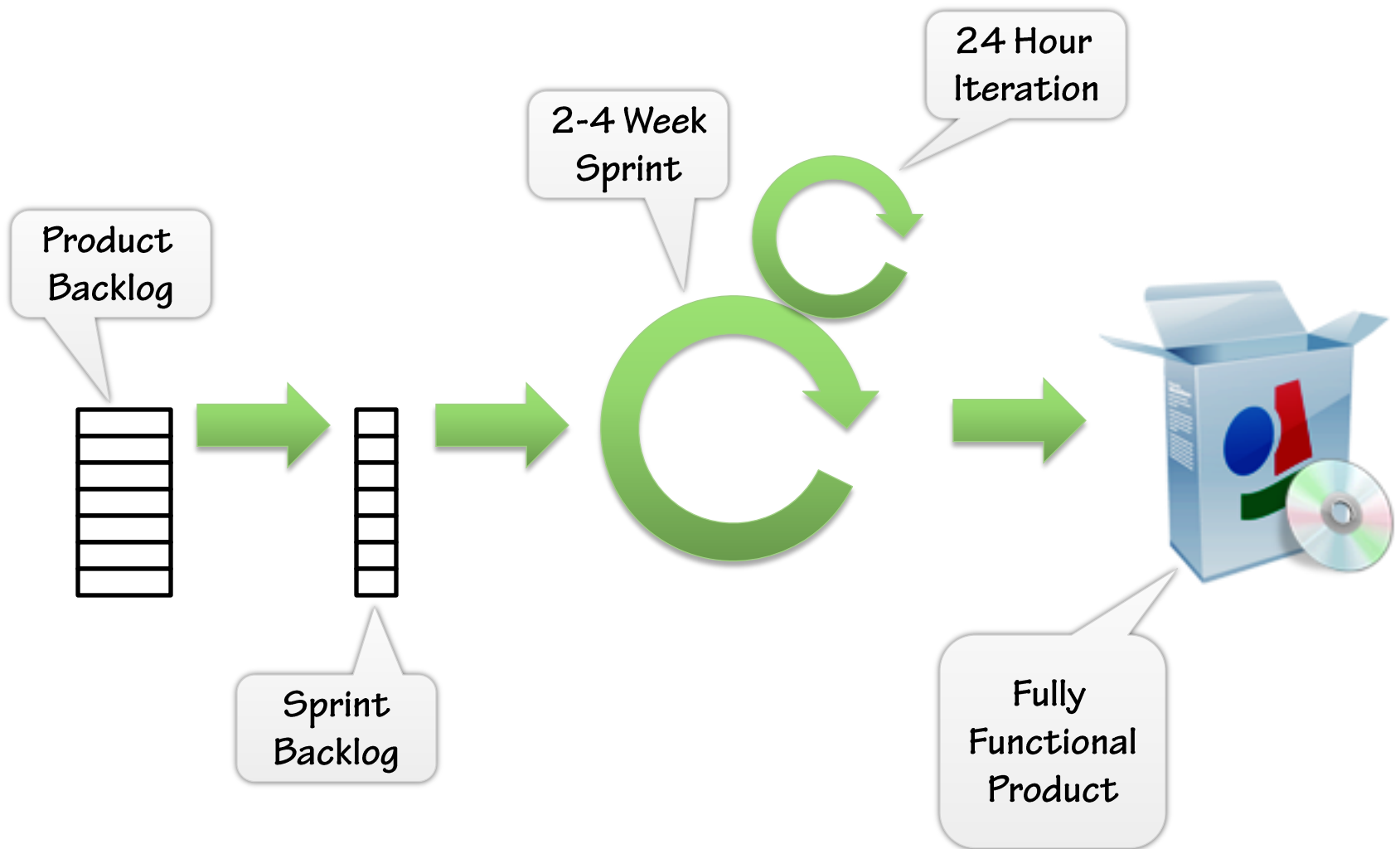
*This one is the  
subject of  
much debate*



# Scrum

- An iterative Project Management process
- Originated with Ken Schwaber and Jeff Sutherland in 1990s
- Does not advocate any specific engineering techniques
- Used beyond software development
- Blends well with XP practices
- Simple

# Scrum



# Lean Software Development

- More a set of guidelines than a formal methodology
- Originally applied in manufacturing, now used in software development
- Can be applied to improve any processes
- Focuses on Continuous Improvement (Kaizen) and value flow

# Principles of Lean Software Development

- Eliminate waste
- Amplify learning
- Respect people
- Build quality in
- Defer commitment
- Deliver fast
- Recognize and optimize the whole

# Feature Driven Development

- Originated with Jeff De Luca while working on a 50 person project at Singapore bank in 1997
- Adheres to strict process
- Based on time-honored engineering practices
- Advocates modeling as the base currency of process
- Some reports claim FDD scales more effectively than Scrum

# Feature Driven Development

## Activities

1. Develop Overall Model

2. Build

3. Plan

4. Design

5. Build

## Milestones

1. Domain Walkthrough

`<action> <result> <object>`

Sum the total for monthly sales  
Validate the password of the user

# FDD Practices

- Domain Object Modeling
- Developing by Feature
- Individual Code Ownership
- Feature Teams
- Inspections
- Configuration Management
- Regular Builds
- Highly Visibility Progress and Results

# Summary

- **Agile is a set of principles**
  - Individuals and interactions **over** processes and tools
  - Working software **over** comprehensive documentation
  - Customer collaboration **over** contract negotiation
  - Responding to change **over** following a plan
- **Agile is not a distinct process or methodology**
- **Agile does have some distinct attributes**
  - Frequent and iterative product delivery
  - Adaptive and responsive to feedback
  - Close customer relationships
  - Highly transparent



# References

- **The Manifesto for Agile Software Development**  
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*<http://www2.computer.org/portal/web/csdl/abs/mags/co/2003/06/r6047abs.htm>*
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*<http://www.versionone.com/Resources/AgileBenefits.asp>*
- **Managing the Development of Large Software Systems**  
*<http://www.cs.umd.edu/class/spring2003/cmsc838p/Process/waterfall.pdf>*