

Chris Flanagan

SD1

Agile vs Waterfall

2/7/19

The Waterfall model and agile development are both ways which a software system is designed and implemented. While the waterfall model focuses more on individuality and working on one step at a time, agile development focuses on team collaboration and cross functionality.

In agile development, teams work together to achieve goals. Instead of one person or group working on the analysis or requirements of a system, multiple teams could be working on a single part of development. Multiple parts of the project could also be being worked on at the same time under agile development. In the waterfall model, a single step is worked on at a time.

Although multiple parts of a project being worked on at the same time can be beneficial in terms of time, it makes it harder for mistakes to be corrected. If there is a problem when using the waterfall model, it is easy to go back a step and correct. It can be difficult to go back when using agile development because of the less structured way of completing tasks.

The main advantage of agile development is its speed. Projects can be completed rapidly and efficiently, often with few errors if the team is experienced. Another advantage of agile development is the ability to deal with continuous change. Often in software development there are changes which can greatly impact a project. Agile development allows the beginning of a project to be changed without major complications and the waterfall does not.

The waterfall model and agile development are both effective ways of completing projects. While agile development focuses more on team collaboration and multiple parts of a project being executed at once, the waterfall model focuses on a straightforward, step-by-step approach. Both styles can be used effectively depending on the project.