ATLASSIAN Agile Coach

The Agile Coach

Atlassian's no-nonsense guide to agile development

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What is Agile?

Agile is an iterative approach to project management and software development that helps teams deliver value to their customers faster and with fewer headaches. Instead of betting everything on a "big bang" launch, an agile team delivers work in small, but consumable, increments. Requirements, plans, and results are evaluated continuously so teams have a natural mechanism for responding to change quickly.

READ ON BELOW

Agile topics

Agile Manifesto

The agile manifesto outlines 4 values and 12 principles for teams, but–decades later–is it still relevant? Find out

Scrum

In scrum, a product is built in a series of fixed-length iterations called sprints, giving agile teams a framework for shipping software on a regular cadence. Learn how the scrum methodology impacts traditional project management.

Kanban

Kanban is a popular agile framework that requires real-time communication of team's capacity and full transparency of work. Learn how the kanban methodology for agile software development can benefit for your team.

Up Next
Agile manifesto →

Agile Project Management

Agile project management is an iterative approach to managing software development projects that focuses on continuous releases and customer feedback. Start here for your agile transformation.

Product Management

Your guide to being a product manager or product owner for an agile team. Learn about developing roadmaps, prioritizing features, building product requirements documents, and using product analytics to make decisions.

Agile at scale

Learn how to scale agile with scrum of scrums or the Scaled Agile Framework (SAFe). Both are great starting points for scaling agile within your organization.

Software Development

Are you a developer? Learn what agile means when it comes to coding, culture, and making your job in software development awesome.

Agile and DevOps - Friends or Foes?

DevOps is agile applied beyond the software team. Read our guide on how agile, DevOps and continuous delivery all work together (or not).

The Agile Advantage

More than fifteen years after its founding, agile practices remain as relevant as ever and the businesses that embrace agile continue to lead the pack.

Featured tutorials

Beginner kanban

Step-by-step instructions on how to drive a kanban project with Jira Software

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Beginner scrum

Step-by-step instructions on how to drive a scrum project in Jira Software

Read more →

Advanced scrum

Step-by-step instructions to drive an advanced scrum program with Jira Software

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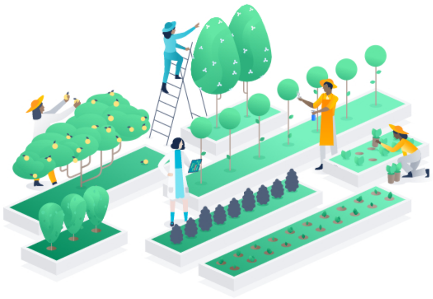
Whereas the traditional "waterfall" approach has one discipline contribute to the project, then "throw it over the wall" to the next contributor, agile calls for collaborative cross-functional teams. Open communication, collaboration, adaptation, and trust amongst team members are at the heart of agile. Although the project lead or product owner typically prioritizes the work to be delivered, the team takes the lead on deciding how the work will get done, self-organizing around granular tasks and assignments.

Agile isn't defined by a set of ceremonies or specific development techniques. Rather, agile is a group of methodologies that demonstrate a commitment to tight feedback cycles and continuous improvement.



The original Agile Manifesto didn't prescribe two-week iterations or an ideal team size. It simply laid out a set of core values that put people first. The way you and your team live those values today – whether you do Scrum by the book, or blend elements of Kanban and XP – is entirely up to you.

Why choose agile?

Teams choose agile so they can respond to changes in the marketplace or feedback from customers quickly without derailing a year's worth of plans. "Just enough" planning and shipping in small, frequent increments lets your team gather feedback on each change and integrate it into future plans at minimal cost.

But it's not just a numbers game—first and foremost, it's about people. As described by the Agile Manifesto, authentic human interactions are more important than rigid processes. Collaborating with customers and teammates is more important than predefined arrangements. And delivering a working solution to the customer's problem is more important than hyper-detailed documentation.

An agile team unites under a shared vision, then brings it to life the way they know is best. Each team sets their own standards for quality, usability, and completeness. Their "definition of done" then informs how fast they'll churn the work out. Although it can be scary at first, company leaders find that when they put their trust in an agile team, that team feels a greater sense of ownership and rises to meet (or exceed) management's expectations.

Agile yesterday, today, and tomorrow

The publication of the Agile Manifesto in 2001 marks the birth of agile as a methodology. Since then, many agile frameworks have emerged such as Scrum, Kanban, Lean, and Extreme Programming (XP). Each embodies the core principles of frequent iteration, continuous learning, and high quality in its own way. Scrum and XP are favored by software development teams, while Kanban is a darling among service-oriented teams like IT or human resources.

Today, many agile teams combine practices from a few different frameworks, spiced up with practices unique to the team. Some call this heresy. We call it practical. It's not about "Agile" – it's about agility.

The agile teams of tomorrow will value their own effectiveness over adherence to doctrine. Openness, trust, and autonomy are emerging as the cultural currency for companies who want to attract the best people and get the most out of them. Such companies are already proving that practices can vary across teams, as long as they're guided by the right principles.

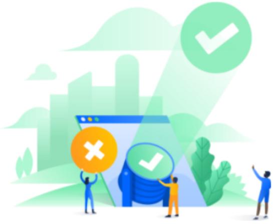
Atlassian on agile

The way each team practices agile should be unique to their needs and culture. Indeed, no two teams inside Atlassian have identical agile practices.

Although many of our teams organize their work in sprints, estimate in story points, and prioritize their backlogs, we're not die-hard practitioners of Scrum. Or Kanban. Or any other trademarked methodology. Instead, we give each team the autonomy to cherry-pick the practices that will make them most effective. And we encourage you to take a similar approach.

For example, if you're on a queue-oriented team like IT, Kanban provides a solid foundation for your agile practice. But nothing should stop you from sprinkling in a few Scrum practices like demo sessions with stakeholders or regular retrospectives.

The key to doing agile right is embracing a mindset of continuous improvement. Experiment with different practices and have open, honest discussions about them with your team. Keep the ones that work, and throw out the ones that don't.



How to use this site

Because we believe each team must forge their own path to agility, you won't find highly prescriptive information on this site. What you will find, however, is a no-nonsense guide to working iteratively, delivering value to your customers, and embracing continuous improvement. Read it, discuss it with your team, and make the changes that make sense to you.

You'll also find tutorials on pairing these practices with Jira Software, our project management tool for agile development teams. Want to set up a Kanban board? Get insights from your team's velocity report? It's all here in the tutorials.

You're on the right path. Keep going!