

Extreme programming (XP)

Extreme programming is an agile software development method, which emphasizes teamwork and aims to produce a higher quality software. There are five fundamental values of XP, the first being communication, as it is beneficial for a team of people to share and discuss their ideas, ideally face-to-face. Next up is simplicity, which means that the system and its design should be kept as simple as possible to aid future revisions and maintenance. The third value is feedback, where the team can identify potential weaknesses and improvements by reflecting on previous efforts. The next value, which is courage, originates from being in a team where no one has to fear working alone or getting blamed for issues with the software. Our last value is respect, which is the foundation of teamwork because if team members hear out one another's opinions and feedback they will not just learn from it but also feel like valued members of a team.

Our XPrience

We chose the XP framework to develop the back-end of our calculation tool, because it seemed like a perfect fit along with Scrum and it also allowed us to utilize our skills as a team rather than as individuals. Throughout the development process we closely followed the values mentioned above. Communication was ensured by facilitating a conference call, where one person was working on a shared screen while the others were supplementing him with solutions and new ideas. Keeping our system simple allowed us to focus only on the necessary parts of it, therefore achieving a more efficient code in less time. Feedback was often gathered from our team members who were assigned to different tasks at the time the code was being written. This way we made sure everyone is on the same page and kept everyone engaged. As a result of the courage value, no one was under a large amount of pressure. Respect among our team members was a vital part of the development process. Everyone's opinions were listened to and discussed, and no one was oppressed. These factors also resulted in a boosted team morale and significantly contributed to a better product. Our overall experience with the XP method was positive since we were satisfied with our workflow and our final product. On top of that we learned much and became a better team.