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Lab 1 Short Essay – "Agile Development vs Traditional Development Process"

The realm of computers is constantly changing due to the fast paced and competitive nature of the field. For computer scientists to stay relevant, they must constantly hone their skills and strive to learn new skills. Computer science is a young language, born from electrical engineering (Wells, 2009). Because of its origin, the art of software development is subject to the constructional rules and regulations of its parent 'language', thus giving computer languages a very rigid and mechanical structure of creation.

The traditional methods and processes of software development follow a firm linear progression of development that moves in these steps: 1. Requirements Specifications 2. System Analysis 3. System Design 4. Implementation 5. Testing 6. Deployment 7. Maintenance (Liang, 2007). While these methods are easy to follow and often produce a robust and technically complex program, its downside comes when the program is developed in the 'bubble' of the traditional methods. The bubble means that a programmer is not exposed to other ideas and ways of approaching an issue, which could create a shorter, yet more robust program.

This is where the idea of Agile development comes into the forefront. The main pillar of agile programming is the idea that a group of programmers will solve a problem in a quicker and find better solutions that one single programmer coding by him or herself. Additionally, agile programming allows the customer to take part in the development process by providing feedback on early versions of the program before the program is released to the public.

Personally, I believe that there are both good and bad aspects to each method of software development. In the future, I think it will be beneficial to program using both methods.

References:
Liang, Y. Daniel. *Introduction to JAVA programming: comprehensive version*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2007. Print.
Wells, Don. "Agile Software Development: A gentle introduction." *Agile Software Development: A gentle introduction.* N.p., 2009. Web 31 Jan. 2017.