Jonathan Disla

WEB321

Discussion 2.2

**Waterfall compared to Agile (SDLC)**

1. **Feature set**

The waterfall method is best suited when the feature set is established before the project begins. That is, if the client knows the features needed, the design is fairly straightforward or perhaps there is already a working prototype. On the other hand, with the Agile method, the feature set is not necessarily written in stone and is allowed to vary throughout the development process.

1. **Predict Completion Dates**

I found this to be an unfair comparison because of the nature of the methodologies. With the waterfall method, all the requirements are well known during project planning. Since the requirements are finalized during the first stage of the waterfall, the necessary resources and time can be calculated easier barring any unforeseen changes by the client. On the other hand, Agile methodologies understand that a client has the ability to change requirements over time as new iterations of the software are prototyped.

1. **Client Technical Knowledge Required**

Unfortunately, the Waterfall method requires a heavy amount of documentation to be approved by the client during the “specifying the design” phase. This is mostly due to the fact that both designers and developers must create a report on the technical feasibility of the features the client wants. With Agile methodology the client is involved more often throughout development and has more access to prototypes as well as able to give feedback more often. It is highly likely that a client changes their mind when they see a prototype and Agile takes that into consideration.

1. **Client Sees Working Code**

When using Agile, a client is able to see a prototyped version of their program faster. This is because Agile needs to be able to receive client feedback more often to know the direction of the project. There are also less features to be concerned with at inception with Agile which results in a very light somewhat “alpha release” of the application.

1. **Quality of UI Design**

A project built using the Agile method may go through a lot more iterations over the development lifecycle. As a client sees somewhat functional prototypes with more frequency, they may want to add functionalities that perhaps the components of the application where not originally meant to do. Thus the design may not be as consistent across the different views of the application. On the other hand, Waterfall methodologies already have an approved set of features outlined during the beginning stages of the project. This way, developers and designers know the final function of a component and can plan ahead as to what is necessary to implement what the client needs.