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Agile Development

When working in a group it is important that everyone gets along. Many people have different personality types, processing speeds, and learning styles. Through bonding and mutual respect it is vital to make the experience pleasurable for all. Specifically, in software applications, it is extremely important for the project to go as smoothly as possible, so time and money can be saved. There are many methods in which a team can chose to tackle a project; some prove better than others. Compared to the waterfall methodology, Agile development, a flexible methodology, which promotes feedback and welcomes creative ideas is better but is not for everyone.

The waterfall method is a sequence of activities performed one after another; the sketch would look like a waterfall hence the name. In the past the waterfall method would bog a team down causing them to spend too much time on the logistics. This was also difficult because if there were to be a change in plans, a new sketch would in turn have to be made. Sometimes there would be multiple waterfall diagrams to record the changes made in the system. All of this extra work can be avoided by simply switching methodologies. Agile development is constantly evolving to the needs of others while focusing on rapid business value. This emphasis on business helps reduce the risks of failure that are associated with software development. The constant feedback and chatter about plans insures that everyone in taking part in the project is informed and there are no objections of any sort. Feedback also helps the sponsor know that progress is being made on their project.

Although agile development sounds like a great methodology, it can not just be used with any team. In order for this methodology to work there must be a certain mindset implemented for the whole group. If a company is not willing to promote swift communication, trust, and teamwork, then the agile development methodology will not work. Overall if a company is willing to be open with their team, agile development will likely succeed.

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Sources:

Systems Analysis and Design with UML 4th Edition by Alan Dennis (Author), Barbara Haley Wixom (Author), David Tegarden (Author)

<http://searchsoftwarequality.techtarget.com/definition/agile-software-development>