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Software Dev 1

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Agile Development vs Waterfall Development

The agile development method revolves around the idea of getting the important parts of the software to the user quickly so that they can decide what they like and don't like, as well as what they want to change. The agile method focuses on small team-based work which is "timeboxed" into chunks known as "sprints". Each sprint has a set run time and is defined by the set of deliverables the user expects by that end date. These sprints are monitored by the scrum master and are evaluated for progress at daily standup scrum meetings. The focus of this style of development is the consistent contact and discussion with the customer which allows for immediate feedback on the software being developed. In this method, the product gets out to the customer very quickly in a very basic working version, so improvements can be made quickly ie it is adaptive. Compared to the waterfall method, the agile method gets a workable version out faster, gets the customer involved more so they feel like a part of the process, and it works well for small groups of programmers. The waterfall method, on the other hand, has the benefits of a better planning and design phase as all the details about the system are hashed out before any coding begins. Another benefit over agile is that code is written once and does not need to be edited nearly as much as during the agile method. In waterfall, unlike in the agile method, the customer is not needed nearly as much, which for some people is a very important factor since they may have other important things to attend to at times and cant be following the project constantly.