**Uncovering Agile Development**

Information Technology has become an integral part of any organization if they have to spread their business across countries or continents, be it through the website or through intranet for communication between employees and managers. So, it is very important for them to have strong IT department that takes care of the business processes efficiently and its development is dynamic. How can we do this? There are a lot of ways IT development and projects can be managed. But, in the last 10 years, there has been an ever-increasing volume of success stories, where companies have dramatically improved the success and performance of their IT development teams and projects by using agile development. This has caused agile to be widely adopted across a variety of industries, including media and technology, large companies, and even companies under government control.

The use of the word agile in this context derives from the [agile manifesto](http://agilemanifesto.org/).  A small group of people got together in 2001 to discuss their feelings that the traditional approach to managing software development projects was failing far too often, and there had to be a better way.  They came up with the agile manifesto, which describes 4 important values that are as relevant today as they were then.  It says, “we value:

Individuals and interactions over processes and tools,  
Working software over comprehensive documentation,  
Customer collaboration over contract negotiation,  
Responding to change over following a plan.

That is, while there is value in the items on the right, we value the items on the left more.”

Let us now define Agile Development, “An iterative and incremental (evolutionary) approach to software development which is performed in a highly collaborative manner by self-organizing teams within an effective governance framework with "just enough" ceremony that produces high quality solutions in a cost effective and timely manner which meets the changing needs of its stakeholders.”

There are various methodologies that are collectively known as agile, as they promote the values of the agile manifesto and they are consistent with the above principles. The most popular ones are:

1. [DSDM](http://www.dsdm.org/) is probably the original agile development method. DSDM was around before the term ‘agile’ was even invented, but is absolutely based on all the principles we’ve come to know as agile.  DSDM seems to be much less well-known outside of the UK.
2. [Scrum](http://www.controlchaos.com/about/index.php) is also an agile development method, which concentrates particularly on how to manage tasks within a team-based development environment.  Scrum is the most popular and widely adopted agile method – I think because it is relatively simple to implement and addresses many of the management issues that have plagued IT development teams for decades.
3. [XP](http://www.extremeprogramming.org/)(Extreme Programming) is a more radical agile methodology, focusing more on the software engineering process and addressing the analysis, development and test phases with novel approaches that make a substantial difference to the quality of the end product.

DSDM is probably the most complete agile methodology, whereas Scrum and XP are easier to implement and complementary because they tackle different aspect of software development projects and are both founded on very similar concepts.