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<u>Agile Development vs. Software Development Life Cycle</u>

The development process discussed by Daniel Liang in *Intro to Java Programming* is referred to as the software development life cycle. It is a multistage process that includes stages such as requirements specification, analysis, design, implementation, testing, and maintenance. Requirements specification tries to understand the problem at hand and to record in detail what the system needs to do. System analysis seeks to analyze the data flow and to identify the system's input and output. System design is to design a process for obtaining the input from the output. Implementation includes translating the system design into programs. Testing ensures the code meets the requirements. Maintenance is then involved in updating/improving the product.

Agile is the ability to create and respond to change to succeed in an uncertain and 'turbulent' environment. Agile Development describes a set of methods for software development. It is a different way of managing IT development teams and projects. In 2001, a group of people got together to discuss their opinions on how they felt that the traditional software development approach was failing too often. They

came up with agile methods through which solutions evolve through collaborative effort between self-organizing and cross-functional teams utilizing the appropriate practices for their content. Characteristics common to agile methods include active user involvement, empowering team decisions, testing throughout (early and often), and completing each feature before moving to the next.

As the developer, the best paradigm suited for me would be the agile development approach. This approach implies using a lot of different techniques, skills, and methods which are always very useful in terms of developing. Also, agile projects seem to rely more on team skills and communicating rather then planning and organizing. Good communication is key to a successful project. Also, research indicates the success in using this flexible approach seems to be much higher than using the step-by-step software development life cycle.

Works Cited

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