Agile Methodology

An agile development cycle is different. Instead, the initial planning and analysis is kept to a very high level, just enough to outline the scope of the development project. Then the team go through a series of iterations, analysing, designing, developing and testing each feature in turn within the iterations.

An iteration is simply a fixed, short period of time that the team chooses to work within. Typically for agile teams, an iteration is between 1 week and 30 days. Strictly speaking, the Scrum agile development methodology advocates 30 days, but I’ve encountered very few teams that actually do this. 2 or 3 weeks seems to be more common. The Extreme Programming agile methodology advocates 1 week. This is very short and in my experience requires quite a lot of maturity in the team and its processes to achieve, because getting to a stable release every week can be difficult.

WEIGHTED DECISION MATRIX

A weighted decision matrix is a tool used to compare alternatives with respect to multiple criteria of different levels of importance. It can be used to rank all the alternatives relative to a “fixed” reference and thus create a partial order fo the alternatives.