Agile and Waterfall are two of the main practices in how to manage the Software Development Life Cycle. Both of them have Pros and Cons and each has its own unique characteristics.

The Waterfall Life Cycle is a Linear process that focuses on the idea that each stage needs to be completed finished before the next stage can begin. These stages are Requirements, Design, Implementation, verification, deployment and maintenance. The requirements stage is often thought of as the most important stage as it is where a lot of time is spent with the client and getting as exact details as possible for the project to be successful.

The Agile Life Cycle is built upon the idea that change is inevitable and that a fluid and dynamic cycle that can be iterated over at all stages is most important. It breaks down stages into sprints with smaller tasks and is always in communication with clients. It allows for clients to receive deliverables at various stages of development and can often times help get a minimally viable product to market quickly.

Both of these life cycles have pros and cons. Overall in today’s world I believe that Agile is the better of the two frameworks as it lends itself to constant changes and has the ability to be a lot more fluid and dynamic. It is great for larger projects as well and can often times speed up the delivery of more complex projects due to its structure. The drawback can be that it is complex at times to manage and with smaller more straight forward projects it can be overkill. These smaller projects that have clear cut requirements lend themselves better to a Waterfall approach most often.