

Agile Disadvantages

Every Story has three faces: my view, your view and the Truth.

Truth about Agile

- “Using an Agile method does not mean that the stakeholders will get what they want. It simply means that they’ll be able to control the team and get the most business value for the least cost”
 - Ref. Martin, Agile Software Development

Lack of Skills



7/9/2022 12:03 PM

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Page 3

Fifty to seventy percent of software teams today don't use basic, well known software practices

40% of IT shops don't use SCM

70% of IT shops don't even have a daily build

Developers need training. Based on

my experience:

30% need basic language training.

50% need OOAD, UML,

Design patterns training

75% need automated testing

training with xUnit and Fit

My preferred sequence

- OOAD, UML, Design Patterns, Automated unit testing
- Nightly build, continuous builds
- FIT. Requirements as user stories.

Importance of Location

Co-Location in today's flat world?

Eclipse has 700 distributed developers using Agile.

7/9/2022 12:03 PM

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Page 4

Business people and developers must work together daily throughout the project; the most efficient and effective method of conveying information to and within a development team is face-to-face conversation.

In today's distributed, virtual world, it would be foolish to insist that all teams be co-located. However, it isn't foolish to remind ourselves that distributed teams will never be as productive or effective as co-located ones.

Face-to-face conversations are the most effective, and distributed teams will have to work very diligently to mitigate the disadvantages of distance.

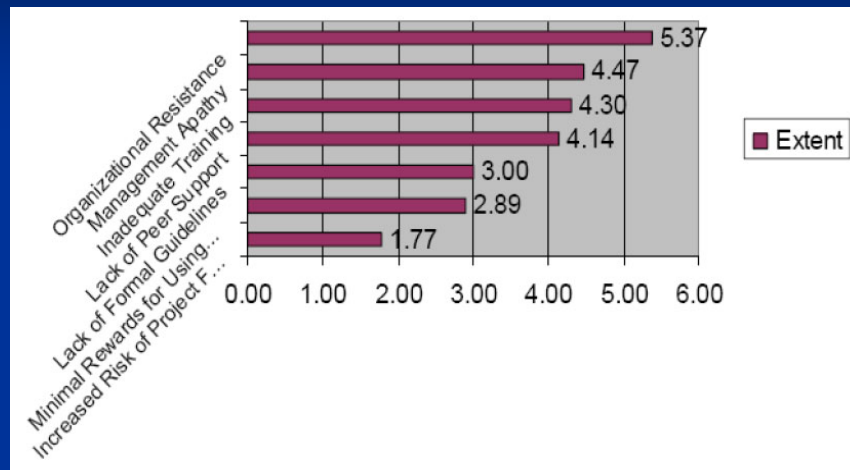
Warning

- Agile relies on self-commitment, self-organization, and emergence rather than authoritarian measures.



If a team is not given this flexibility or only given pseudo flexibility, all agility is only on paper.

Problems/Challenges adopting Agile



Agile Visibility is high

- Makes all dysfunction visible
- Bad products will be delivered sooner
- Doomed projects will fail faster

Agile doesn't fix anything: the team has to do it
May feel like things are worse at the beginning

Adoption of Agile

- Agile adoption success rate is 33%
- Partial adoption may be worse than none at all

Of every 3 companies that attempt to use Scrum, 1 actually uses it. The other two may use certain practices but never adopt in its fullness.

Agile fails not because it has flaws but because of people fear of transparency. It takes courage to be truthful.

If adoption fails, time will have been wasted, and some people may leave

When people say partial adoption it usually means that

- if time permits, I will do the testing.
- Sometimes the manager assigns work to the team. Sometimes the team is self-managing.

Both are disastrous for the project