



Top 10 Reasons Agile Is Better with AccuRev

Top 10 Reasons Agile is Better with AccuRev

Are you looking at going Agile? Looking to improve or expand your current Agile Projects? If so, it is important to choose the right partners to deliver on the full value of Agile. AccuRev understands the opportunities and challenges of going Agile and has put together a suite of products and services to make going and scaling out Agile easier and more productive. Here are the Top 10 reasons why Agile is better with AccuRev:

1. Create, Track, and Deliver User Stories Quickly and Easily

In Agile everything centers on the user story. In AccuRev, user stories are represented by “change packages”. You can put everything needed to get the story from the backlog to “done” into a single change package. Change packages can be applied to multiple releases or products and tracked regardless of how many different places it has been propagated. Change packages provide developers and management with an accurate representation from a coding and delivery perspective as to what has been completed in a certain stage of your Agile methodology and what remains to be completed. This data is then propagated to both your project management tool as well as your build and deployment tool, both are part of AgileCycle™ from AccuRev.

Change packages can be promoted individually or in groups. As work is promoted from stream to stream, you have a record of the content of each stream from a user story perspective instead of just a files perspective. Change packages allow you to ask questions like “which user stories are in the stream that represents all user stories that are ‘done’,” without having to resort to mainline development. Additionally, the testers can see exactly what has changed, enabling them to optimize their testing.

2. Full Traceability

Software development in an Agile environment happens at a fast pace. Stories are completed, builds happen routinely and testing goes on all the time. All this activity is great for producing working software, but presents challenges when trying to see what is happening at any point in the development process. What if you need to track what caused a broken build or want to know what is in a particular release?

AgileCycle’s integrated environment gives you the tools to track down problems and get a complete view of what is happening. AccuRev SCM integrates with your project management tool enabling you to see what changes correlate to what iteration and identify what release each story maps into. You can also integrate your build, test and deploy tools to provide tractability on all levels of the development process. When a build breaks, you can quickly see what files (and who was working on them) changed between builds. AgileCycle from AccuRev offers full traceability from user stories/requirements, through the development cycle, into build and deployment, and links to automated testing. All phases of the Agile development lifecycle are linked via user stories and tasks, allowing for quick and accurate status of a story, build, iteration, or release.

3. Powerful Multi-Stage Continuous Integration

One of the hallmarks of Agile methodologies is the rapid pace in which software gets produced and released. You need tools that keep up (and even accelerate) with the pace, rather than slow things down with cumbersome and time consuming interfaces and manual processes. One of best practices of Agile projects is Continuous Integration. This is the practice of automatically triggering a build and often a build and test whenever a change is made to the code base. This provides instant feedback to developers and helps to keep the code base in a “ready to release” state, free of build problems and test failures.

Setting up Continuous Integration is a simple process using AgileCycle. For example, you can set up a trigger such that on successful completion of a build and test cycle, all of the source file changes are automatically promoted to the next level in the development hierarchy, protecting the integrity of the next stream level. AgileCycle’s stream hierarchy makes it simple to set up multiple levels of continuous integration corresponding to whatever process stages you have in your stream hierarchy such as code review, team integration, product-wide integration, etc.

4. Optimized for Multiple Agile Teams and Parallel Development

Managing multiple Agile teams in parallel can create unique challenges like allowing each team to work independently as well as quickly and seamlessly integrate with other teams. AccuRev’s inheritance feature makes it possible to have separate Scrum teams in parallel deliver and inherit changes from each other automatically. Changes can be promoted up and across the stream hierarchy so code can easily be shared. AccuRev streams are uniquely suited to establishing the Agile best practice of isolation between in-progress code and more mature code.

AccuRev uniquely enables you to control parallel development across multiple products, projects, releases, and time zones by providing fully-auditable dynamic process management. AccuRev provides a stream-based architecture that captures and controls the relationships between the code bases in parallel development efforts. An AccuRev stream inherits code from a parent stream without using expensive file copy operations. Your team members can just drag-and-drop between streams.

AccuRev provides the following features to enable parallel development:

- Efficient codeline creation and management.
Fast and easy code merging.
- Team members can safely store their work in the AccuRev repository, test it locally, and then share it with others.
- Advanced merge analysis and tracking support enabling easy identification and resolution of incompatible code changes across streams.

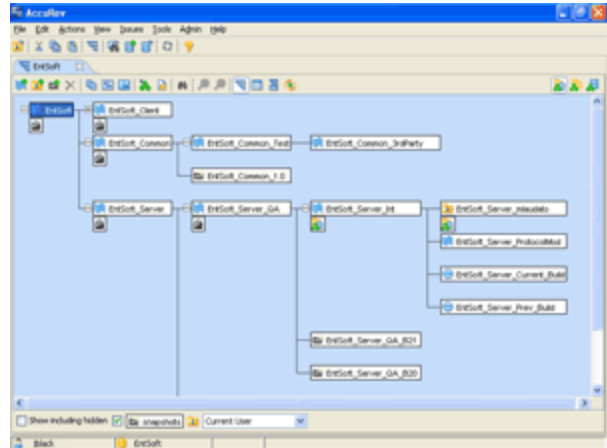


5. Simplified Process Visualization

The proven stream-based architecture of AccuRev is built specifically for today's Agile software development environments. The AccuRev StreamBrowser® provides a visual representation of the stream hierarchy, including drag and drop operations to adjust the hierarchy; right click context menus for adding stages to the hierarchy; and full support for determining differences between streams and stream history. Process stages and team activities such as feature integration, quality assurance, and code reviews are well-defined, enforced, visible, and easy to manage in AccuRev. At a glance, you can see the status of a particular piece of code, user story, or even an entire iteration backlog.

Sprint Retrospectives are another major reason for process change in an Agile shop, AccuRev is easily configurable to dynamically change the existing process allowing Agile teams to inspect and adapt to new and better processes to improve their workflow.

AgileCycle's planning module comes with a suite of reporting tools and dashboards to keep everyone informed of progress. Charts such as the Burndown chart instantly shows team velocity.



6. Increased Visibility for all Stakeholders

A cornerstone of Agile is responding to change with the ability to inspect and adapt your process to respond to it. Without the proper amount of visibility and transparency into your development processes it's going to be very difficult to institute change. What was once a yearly review of your development process is now a weekly or bi-weekly activity into the success of your process and how well your process is driving product development.

Information about the development progress will need to reach many different stakeholders including QA teams, development teams, Product Owners, Scrum Masters and high level management to do their jobs. Add on the often typical scenario of multiple teams running different projects at different intervals in different locations makes good visibility crucial. Having a centralized location for all this information is key.

What is required is the ability to capture and flow information from a Product Owner, to a Scrum Team, to the Build and Release Engineers, to Operations and back to management. This flow encompasses requirements (user stories), to project management (backlog), code development (actual code changes), build and deployment (binaries), and release (production). This visibility across all teams throughout all stages of the development is exactly what AgileCycle does for you and your teams.

7. Support for Agile and Non-Agile Projects Simultaneously

Agile projects often work in conjunction with non-Agile projects which include Waterfall, Iterative, and other Traditional methodologies. While AgileCycle is uniquely qualified to support Agile development, it also offers support for other methodologies. AccuRev enables and integrates multiple development process models (Agile, waterfall, RUP, etc.) together with your software assets. Agile and waterfall projects can work side by side and your developers can get visibility of dependencies between the projects as well as move code from project to project. Whatever your environment, you can use AgileCycle™ to manage, track, and measure all of your software development projects.

There are a couple reasons why you would want to support Agile and non-Agile processes: 1) The need to support Agile and Traditional teams as you migrate teams to Agile across your enterprise, since not all teams will be able go Agile at once; and 2) Even when a majority of teams and organizations are migrating to Agile, there will also be some teams that stay on a traditional process and will also need to support them alongside your Agile development.

Even within Agile projects, there is often no one-size fits all approach. Want to use parts of Scrum and XP? No problem, we can handle it. Moving to Kanban? We can handle it. Need to move when the code review happens along the way? Just drag and drop it; no need for complicated scripts or guesswork.

We don't subscribe to, require or enforce any specific methodology. We enable your process.

8. Seamless Coordination with Remote Teams

Some of Agile's best practices require intimate team communication, rapid feedback, collaboration and code integration. Adding remote teams makes it difficult for teams to implement these best practices. In order to scale Agile across multiple remote teams, having the necessary tools at your disposal is key. This is why AgileCycle from AccuRev provides tools that are globally accessible to all teams, and can seamlessly merge work from remote scrum teams regardless of their location.

AccuRev's client side interface can communicate over a wan or VPN connections globally. If your needs are more complex, AccuRev offers AccuReplica for Replication and Continuous Integration when scaling the organization. The collaboration is efficient and unified across all replicas, giving greater visibility into the development process. Beyond simply providing access for all users, AccuReplica enables sophisticated scaling of Agile, and offers a driver to scale that process across your distributed organization. In addition, AccuRev's StreamBrowser clear visual representation of the development process prevents manual errors being introduced by remote teams.

9. Designed to go From Pilot to Scale and Everything in Between

AgileCycle is designed to be deployed as a complete suite or in phases. Pick and choose the solution that is right for your development roadmap and your level of Agile adoption. As your needs change and grow, you can add on additional elements of the solution. You can transition to Agile development all at once or a project at a time; AgileCycle allows you to add Agile projects and maintain existing non-Agile ones. As Agile scales throughout your organization, AgileCycle grows with you. AgileCycle can support hundreds of simultaneous teams and millions of code files. No project is too big or too small for AgileCycle.

10. Tight Integration with Your Existing Tools

We recognize that there is no cookie-cutter approach to development and that our software must be able to integrate with other software. AccuRev integrations provide out-of-the-box integrations with IDEs, issue tracking tools, and security/provisioning, and other third party tools.

Only AgileCycle provides out-of-the-box integrations with all of the leading Issue Tracking and Agile Project Management systems on the market today including Atlassian Jira, Rational ClearQuest, VersionOne, MKS Integrity Manager, Bugzilla, Serena TeamTrack, and HP QualityCenter.

AccuRev Integration Services provide robust data mapping that allows data synchronization between a third-party issue tracking system and AccuRev. Critical data is preserved in your integrated environment between AccuRev change packages, AccuWork, and the third-party issue tracking system. We also integrate with leading build and release software like Hudson, Electric Commander, and Bamboo.

At AccuRev, our core expertise is process improvement. Adopting Agile is all about process improvement. We've got the expertise, coaches, trainers, consultants, and of course the tools to help you successfully transition to Agile all the way up to scaling Agile throughout the enterprise. In addition to product support, we offer a host of services designed to optimize your process and implement process improvements like multi-stage continuous integration. Contact us to see how we can find the right 10 reasons matching your business needs.