Developer Journal

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Software Development Lifecycle

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When the product owner knows requirements are changing, I honestly prefer an email indicating that there will be changes along with those changes to the vision of the product are and something that indicates we will communicate in the next refinement meeting. This is so that I have time to think about the new work and how we can approach it. In this meeting I would like to discuss what the suggested changes to the code will be. I would then like the tester to revise their test cases based on the new acceptance criteria and approach that we would take to achieve the end goal. We want to make sure that the changes they are requesting have been accurately understood all around so the team can provide correct functioning software.

It is very important that key members are included in this communication so they can also prepare to communicate how this affects them and what they will need to do. This is going to mean that we need to meet to change the requirements and test cases that we have already created. This may change the size of the tasks at hand and change the priority of work. If it does the group must remain honest when resizing so that we can properly move stories around if we must. This is so the business can have a better understanding of how the product will be delivered.

The reason Agile works so well is this change is not as drastic to planned work. We have not promised a delivery date very far out. This approach gives us the opportunity to change and adapt. We can create new stories to alter code, alter existing acceptance criteria, alter tests, and it allows for us to move work around. We accept the fact that priorities can change, and it allows people to work as a team. Working as a team means we depend on each other to make sure we are delivering what we say we can. By working together to accept the changes to the product, we all have a better group understanding of the vision of the software we are working to create.