

- Promote team success early and often — help stakeholders and executives see the results of the team. Begin by highlighting results (both tangible and intangible) within your immediate sphere of influence in both formal and informal settings. These measures can include delivery dates, defect counts, customer satisfaction, team morale, and responsiveness to changing priorities. Making results visible will greatly increase the level of trust with executives, enabling them to make timely decisions about products with relation to strategy. Rely on the successes of early projects to illustrate the value and garner interest from others.



Why Agile?



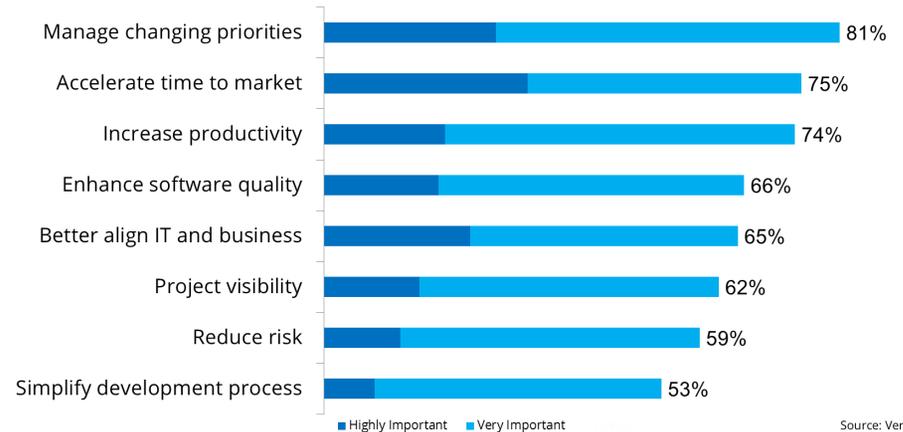
Summary

The ultimate goal of software development is to provide a reliable delivery that will drive business value and outcomes. Traditional software development approaches are being successfully replaced with more iterative and adaptable approaches for faster deliveries and time to value. Get started now by working with us to adopt Agile. When fully implemented, the results can produce significant, innovative, and competitive business benefits.

For more information

Website: <http://www.pega.com/services/consulting>

Why do organizations embrace agile? From a 2013 survey of over 3500 software development individuals, the top reasons for adopting agile are:



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Is your organization ready to be Agile? Can your enterprise realize the benefits of Agile? Talk to us to learn more.

Introduction to Agile

Too often we repeat what we know and fall back on old approaches for implementing software. However today's rapidly changing business environment demands an equally rapid, adaptable approach to software delivery. Software development is undergoing a transformation from a rigid, sequential, process-driven approach to a more adaptive, business value-driven approach called Agile development. For most software practitioners, Agile represents a natural evolution in the development approaches to align with the accelerated business environment.

Agile development is really an umbrella term for several iterative and incremental software development methodologies that lie along a spectrum. It is a lightweight, low ceremony approach to software development. It incorporates a highly structured set of management and engineering best practices for accelerating and improving the delivery process and quality. Some of the key principles of agile include:

- Provide early and continuous delivery of valuable software by breaking large initiatives down into smaller projects and releases
- Plan and deliver software in short, frequent iterations that incorporate all aspects of software development from planning, building, testing, and deploying; visibility into project status and progress will be evident by the frequent delivery of working software
- Create high-level estimates of feature complexity rather than estimating the duration — in Agile, the duration is fixed by the length of an iteration, and larger time-boxes of iterations are established on a feature-driven basis (i.e., completion date is driven by completion of the needed features) or a time-driven basis (i.e., the team determines how many features can be completed by a fixed deadline)
- Prioritize high-value, low complexity items for quick success through continuous planning that can evolve over time — all while minimizing the amount of low value work done (an industry statistic reveals 60% of software features are rarely or never used)
- Build self-organized, cross-functional teams of people with all stakeholders (executives, business owners, developers, and testers) involved throughout the delivery cycle to ensure alignment
- Ensure communication, preferably face-to-face, and regular reflection and tuning to empower teams that are continuously learning and increasing effectiveness

As Agile adoption grows across industries, it is becoming the standard software development process for high performing teams. Organizations should no longer ask *if* they should adopt Agile, rather *when* and *how*. Waiting until later to adopt Agile may be too late when you're sacrificing opportunity and business value now.

Assessing your Readiness

Some organizations claim to be already using Agile Development, while others are still considering a transition. Still others use Agile to build but have traditional approaches to gather requirements and release software. Take the time to honestly assess how close or far your organization is from being a truly Agile enterprise. Look at your current structure, teams, and processes. Do you have long, cumbersome release processes that discourage working iteratively? Does testing always fall at the very end of the development effort? Reflect on your strengths and weaknesses and establish priorities for areas of potential growth.

Roadmap for Success

No matter where you land on the methodology spectrum, one of the most frequent challenges in transitioning to Agile is changing the organization's culture and convincing others that adopting Agile is the way to go. The transition to full adoption of Agile will vary by organization. Agile champions need to have a strong desire to accelerate the delivery of business value within their organizations and to improve the approach. Several strategies can socialize ideas and accelerate the success.

1. Ensure both management and project teams are committed and engaged throughout delivery — this means picking the right team for the first project(s). If Agile expertise exists internally, leverage them as much as possible; otherwise, consider hiring experienced Agile personnel or respected consultants or coaches. All stakeholders need to be educated on the value of Agile development, understand what's in it for them, and see how they can support the transition and teams.
2. Agile teams must have consistent, full-time members and work collaboratively to achieve success — working towards a common goal and shared vision, there should not be any us-versus-them thinking. During the initial formation of the team, champions and Agile experts should be committed to the team, demonstrating the benefits and coaching on best practices.