

Success Factors of Agile Workflow at DVSK



Agile software development is a new approach to the provision of a quality philosophy and increased customer satisfaction in software development companies. As it is often necessary to differentiate from competitors in the ever-turbulent business environment, DVSK has integrated agile principles into everyday workflow, striving to deliver better quality to our clients. The agility of both creation and responses to change promises to increase efficiency, improve relationships with clients, and accelerate development. However, what are the key success factors of 'being agile' in comparison to more traditional software development methods such as waterfall methodology?

Each of the agile practices has its own different philosophy to approach software development. However, all advocate close cooperation between software development and business teams as opposed to isolated development by software teams; face-to-face communication, as opposed to over-emphasis

of written documentation in projects; frequent delivery of working software, as opposed to final delivery of end-product; accepting the changing requirements of customers, as opposed to defining a fixed set of requirements; and the adaptive organizational capability of teams according to changing business requirements.

One of the essential requirements for successful software development is customer collaboration. At DVSK, we use the 'Power of three' approach where the programmer, tester and client are in close cooperation during the life of a project. In fact, it is difficult to be a customer often not knowing what is actually wanted until it is able to be seen, touched and used. This is why it is important for the software development team to step in at the beginning, learn the business of the client, and get the project idea without wasting time on reading a pile of documentation. Following this process, we are able to propose and deliver what the customer really needs, instead of what he thinks he wants at the beginning. We let the customer explain his ideas, elicit examples, and build trust by committing to only what we can deliver.

As close collaboration between business,



customer, and software development is advocated by agile methodologies, important requirements for change as requested by the customer or emerged from the development process are made within a short timeframe and reflected in forthcoming software deployment. The members of the software development team are themselves responsible for their own goals to the maximum possible extent. This allows them to take their own decisions in project development and satisfy the customer by delivering valuable software with high flexibility and maintainability.

The project release cycle is much shorter when using agile principles as opposed to waterfall methodology. In fact, most industries nowadays cannot wait six months until software is delivered. This is why DVSK offers its customers the on-going opportunity to monitor the development process and interact with it in terms of testing functionality increments and thereafter expressing needs and feelings. This helps to eliminate bugs and misunderstandings which may result in unsatisfied customers and the possible failure of the entire project. Our customers can check project progress via both the DVSK

webpage and the intranet, and see all 'to do – in progress – and done activities'. Entire software development, IT infrastructure and toolsets used at DVSK are chosen in a way to best support our agile development workflow. This includes agile planning and issue tracking tools to enforce workflow or continual during-the-night builds of daily work into the testing environment of the server, so every day our client is able to see the project itself and not only the documentation. We believe that one picture is worth a thousand words.

Certainly there are many more factors which bring agile software development companies success on the market if they dare to follow it. Most of them promote development, teamwork, collaboration, and process adaptability throughout the life-cycle of the project. However, the key success factors of all agile work teams are full dedication, trust, self responsibility as well as transparent, simple and rock steady workflows. The enforcement of these principles helps us to build good relationships with our clients so they return new projects.

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