The Need for Agile

To produce higher quality and complex products that meet tight delivery schedules, large enterprises need the flexibility and the ability to adapt requirements to evolving customer needs. The changing landscape of product development requires enterprises to move away from the rigid and sequential Waterfall methods.

Best Practices for Enterprise Agile

The Agile process is one way that large enterprises have addressed these pressures. Its methodology gives companies the flexibility to adjust and assess a project throughout the entire development cycle by having small review cycles known as “sprints” or “iterations.” At the end of each mini-cycle, teams deliver and review on a product increment.

The Manifesto for Agile Software Development

The Agile Manifesto, developed by 17 software developers in 2001, values:

- Individual and interactions over processes and tools
- Working software over comprehensive documentation
- Customer collaboration over contract negotiation
- Responding to change over following a plan

Key Takeaways for Large Enterprises

Cost efficiency and added functionality are the biggest drivers to employing Agile methods across the enterprise. Large enterprises can achieve cost efficiency and added functionality by implementing certain best practices. These practices include:

1. Foster and cultivate collaboration between development groups
2. Solicit and incorporate end-user feedback during each iteration
3. Pair continuously and improve commitment to Agile methods

Enterprise leaders are 95% more likely to include all stakeholders with each design review than followers. Enterprise leaders are 53% more likely to include a continuous improvement discussion at each iteration than followers.

PLM
ALM

Product configurator / product line manager
Automated unit / integration testing tools
IDE
SCM (Software configuration management)

Percentage of Respondents, n = 72
0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

Enterprise Leaders
Large Enterprise Followers

Source: Aberdeen Group

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