



spectrum data technologies

A Spectrum White Paper: Benefits of Agile Software Development



Introduction

Snowbird, Utah – February 11-13, 2001

It was at the Snowbird Ski Resort of all places, where 17 prominent figures in technology came together to discuss a new way of developing software.

Sure, there were probably more than a handful of white powdery runs down the slopes those days, but these visionaries weren't there for the moguls.

They came together to collectively think about a problem that still haunts software development today:

“Why do over half of all software development projects come in over budget and overdue?”

Rather than focus on the culprits to that question, conversations quickly turned to *what to do about it...*

From there -- amidst the snow-capped mountains in Eastern Utah, agile software development was born.

Agile Software Development

Agile methods represent a family of development processes vs. a single approach to developing software. It emphasizes speed, simplicity, smaller teams, and the ability to adapt on a dime.

An excerpt from ***the Agile Manifesto***:

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

Source: <http://agilemanifesto.org/>

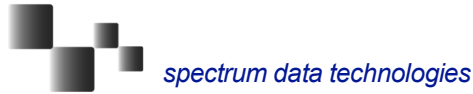
Speed, Value, and Expertise

At Spectrum Data Technologies, we hang our hat on delivering Speed, Value, and Expertise to our Clients. These are the 3 main pillars we've built our Company around, as well as the reason why we've adopted the Agile Software Development method as one of the cornerstones for our success.

>> Speed

Agile methods consider the release of **working** software the most important element of development.

Often times, software releases are delayed in order to get to a more perfect state, which is the case with more traditional development methods such as the Waterfall method. The beauty of the agile method is that through frequent releases, it “catches up and passes” other methods despite what might appear to be an inferior Release 1.



To illustrate – consider two people climbing ladders. Two people. Two ladders, 20 rungs on each ladder. Agile climbs the ladder two rungs at a time, and moves every 20 seconds. Waterfall climbs the ladder 5 rungs at a time, but moves every 60 seconds. At the painful expense of recalling high school math, it is easy to see who gets there first.

The power of continual releases and refining each release quickly gets you to the top faster.

>> Value

Agile methods highlight customer collaboration and the flexibility to change.

With that in mind, Spectrum sees value as a two-way street. Through speed and cost-effective development we have been able to consistently pass along hard financial dollar value to our customer base. In return, we've seen the lifetime value of relationships with valued clients pay dividends we never considered.

It all starts with working “better together” and seeing the *benefits* of change vs. the frustrations.

>> Expertise

Agile methods empower small teams of individuals and places an emphasis on frequent, face-to-face communication.

Too many companies and alternate development methods take the power out of individuals, and instead allow tools, processes, and documentation to control a project's outcome.

This “machine-over-man” mentality strikes against the heart of Spectrum's software development practices. We've seen the impact and results of utilizing small, cross-functional teams of experts who accomplish much more from experience and adaptation vs. being tethered to processes and predictable paths.

About Spectrum

At Spectrum, we understand the power of technology and embrace all of its many ranges and options. It is these far ranging spectrums of technology and what they can produce that truly challenge our imagination and curiosity.

Whether its connecting individuals or making global corporations more productive – we believe technology has a way of changing everything around it: impacting a room, a building, a world beyond -- in ways that only its' creators imagined.

We understand that managing change is only half the battle. Our corporate philosophy is centered around ensuring positive change for our clients' bottom line.

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