

## Navigating Through Agile

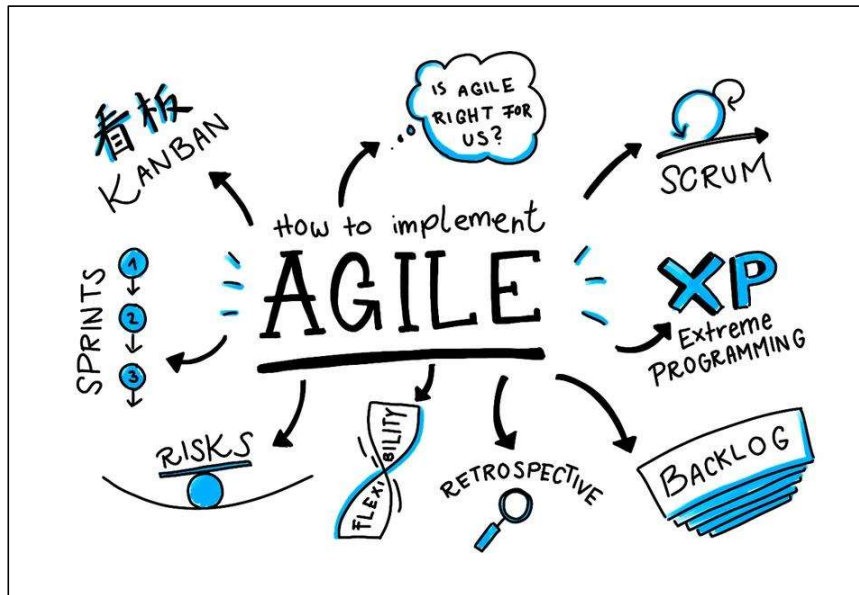


Photo 1. Agile World (Photo taken from Coderspace.io website)

Consider that you assigned to a project with too many unclear customer requests to be understood, tested, and thus fulfilled. You might have recalled from my previous blog that, according to Stacey Matrix, you have stepped foot into the world of Agile. Here comes the question: How can you navigate through this world? Let's find out some of the critical points in this blog.

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It all starts with a shift in mindset. To implement Agile, you need a different mindset apart from the one we get used to in traditional waterfall approach. This shift obviously takes time, effort and might create a huge confusion; it's all normal. We all know that the world around us changes faster than that, thus we need to inspect and adapt in this new world of business by having speed and flexibility.

Your first stop in this journey is the Manifesto for Agile Software Development (<https://agilemanifesto.org/>) and principles behind it (<https://agilemanifesto.org/principles.html>). It takes only ten minutes to read but more time to apply them; ly them; just like to learn how to play chess and to become a proficient player; do not worry, you can learn by doing. You will need to forget the way you manage work and the constraints you have and be more flexible while trying to apply any framework without prejudice. You will understand in time what that means once you try it.

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On the other side of the coin, is another fact: Along with dotcom revolution in 1990s, need for time to market in software products needed to be less than before. Software could not be developed just as NASA was developing a space program. Consumer behavior started to shift from waiting to buy what is offered by the producer to what consumer needs shall be built by producer. Companies of today do not deliver products they develop according to their capabilities, instead, they try to deliver products offering value to their customers. A company does not have the luxury to spend a year developing a new product and then fail at go-to-market depending on customer dissatisfaction. Therefore, you need to deliver a working product frequently.

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Before selecting an Agile framework, you need to understand what business agility means. Some people consider agile to be only used in software development, but this is not 100% true. Business Agility is, as Scaled Agile describes, “The ability to compete and thrive in the digital age by quickly responding to market changes and emerging opportunities with innovative, digitally enabled business Solutions”. This means that every organization can implement business agility in its day-to-day operations.

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Let’s move a little bit deeper into the Agile world. There are several frameworks, tools, and practices, and companies may use different agile frameworks and/or combinations that work the best for them. As human beings by nature, our brains do not like uncertainty, just like companies do not. Therefore, a framework or a guide to follow is always appreciated. For example, if you have a small, you can use Scrum, Kanban, or Scrumban. However, if you have a large organization, you must use scaled agile frameworks like Nexus, Nexus, LeSS, and SAFE. On the other hand, there is also Disciplined Agile from PMI, which states “True business agility comes from freedom, not frameworks (1).”

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I bet you are eager to know where to begin. My advice would be to start small at first and use step by step approach; you need to experiment, then inspect and adapt according to the results that you have. Select a small cross-functional team and pick a use case, a pain point that you can attack as a team. You can prefer to hire a consultant at the beginning of this journey to guide you for a month or two, to help your team get insights to proceed with application. Then, you can increase the number of use cases.

Happy navigation!

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## References

- (1) <https://www.pmi.org/disciplined-agile/introduction-to-disciplined-agile>