



**GROWTH
ACCELERATION**
PARTNERS

Choosing The Right Software Development Process

How to choose the right process **and stick to it**



Choosing the right software development process can have a significant impact on the success of any project or team.

There are a number of software development processes to choose from, each with its own strengths and weaknesses.

In this white paper, we explore three of the most popular agile software development processes – Scrum, Kanban and Scrumban – and how to ensure your team chooses the right one and maintains it over time.

Scrum

Scrum is an agile software development process designed to deliver software quickly and efficiently. It is based on the idea of small, cross-functional teams working together to deliver software in short iterations called sprints.

With Scrum, team members work together to plan, execute and review the work for each sprint, with the goal of delivering functional software at the end of each sprint.

Scrum is widely considered one of the most powerful and effective agile development processes. It offers several benefits, including improved communication between teams, accelerated delivery times, a greater focus on customer feedback and requirements, and higher-quality output. With Scrum, cross-functional teams are able to adapt to changing customer needs while still meeting deadlines.



A recent study showed 61% of global companies currently use scrum as their preferred agile methodology.

Although Scrum is powerful, it is not without its drawbacks. One of the primary drawbacks is it can be difficult to implement if teams lack experience with the process. As a result, teams without an experienced scrum leader may struggle with setting up the necessary processes and ensuring team members follow its protocols.

Kanban

Kanban is another agile software development process designed to improve the flow of work and increase productivity. It is based on the idea of visualizing the flow of work, using a tiered board to track the progress of tasks from start to finish.

In Kanban, team members work together to pull tasks from a backlog and move them through the different stages of the Kanban board, with the goal of delivering software as quickly as possible.

The visual nature of the Kanban board provides a clear roadmap for each task, showing the progress of each task and helping to identify any bottlenecks or issues that may be impeding progress.

However, there are some downsides to using Kanban.

Unlike Scrum, which has a set framework and guidelines, Kanban can be difficult to implement without proper guidance. The nature of the Kanban board can also make it difficult for team members to keep up with the progress within tasks, which can sometimes lead to confusion or delays.



Visualizing the flow of work allows team members to quickly identify where bottlenecks are occurring and where tasks are stuck.

Scrumban

Scrumban is a hybrid between Scrum and Kanban that combines the best of both processes. It allows teams to use Scrum's structured approach while still taking advantage of Kanban's visual tools.

In Scrumban, team members work together to plan the sprints using the same framework as they would in Scrum, but they use a Kanban board to track their progress on each task throughout the sprint.

By combining the structured approach of Scrum with the visual tools of Kanban, teams are able to get the best of both worlds.



The biggest disadvantage of using Scrumban is its complexity. Combining two different processes requires teams to have an in-depth understanding of both Scrum and Kanban in order to make the most of Scrumban. This makes it difficult for less experienced teams, or those with less experience in either process, to implement. Additionally, because Scrum and Kanban are two separate processes, teams may struggle with transitioning from one process to the other during a sprint.

How to Choose the Right Process

So, how do you choose the right software development process for your project? The best approach is to consider the specific needs of your project, as well as the strengths and weaknesses of your team.



If your project requires rapid delivery and flexibility to handle evolving requirements, Scrum may be the best choice.



If your project requires a focus on improving the flow of work, providing visibility to tasks and increasing productivity, Kanban may be the best choice.



And if your project requires a combination of these two approaches, Scrumban is your answer.

Spending the time to choose the right approach can increase your chances of maintaining a healthy agile development process and delivering a successful project.

The Importance of Doing Agile Properly

Agile development emphasizes collaboration, flexibility and continuous iteration. It is designed to help teams quickly respond to changing requirements and deliver high-quality software in a fast-paced environment. However, some teams may think they are using an agile development process, but in reality, they are not. This can happen for a variety of reasons.

One reason is teams may not fully understand the principles and practices of agile development. Agile is not just about using certain tools or techniques, but rather about adopting a specific mindset and approach to software development. If a team does not fully understand and embrace this mindset, it may not be able to fully achieve its benefits.

Another reason is teams may be too rigid in their approach. Agile development is designed to be flexible and adaptable, but some teams may try to rigidly follow a specific set of practices or processes, rather than being willing to adapt and change as needed.

Finally, teams may be using agile development as a label or a buzzword, rather than truly embracing its principles and practices. This can happen when teams are under pressure to deliver software quickly and may selectively use agile practices as a way to show they are meeting this need without actually changing their approach to software development

How to Get a Broken Agile Process Back on Track

If your agile development process has fallen off track, it can be frustrating to individuals, stressful to the team and risk an entire project's success. By following these steps, you can get your agile process back on track, and start delivering software quickly and efficiently again.

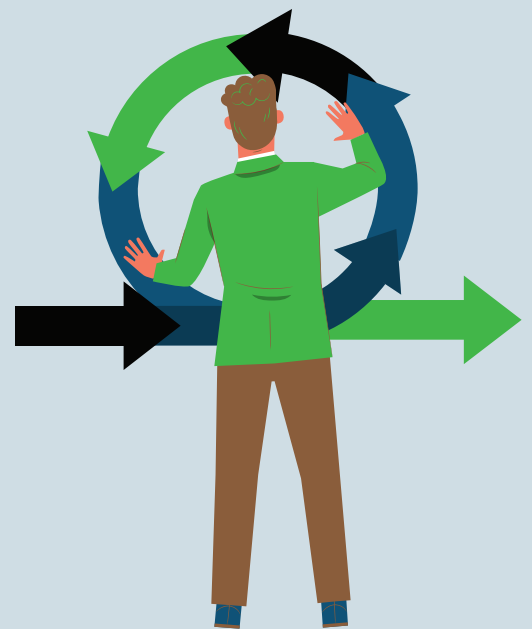
Identify the root cause of the problem – Before you can fix your agile process, you need to understand why it has fallen off track. This can be due to a variety of factors, including a lack of communication, inadequate planning, a lack of buy-in from team members or even a lack of understanding. By identifying the root cause of the problem, you can develop a plan to address it.

Engage with your team – Agile development is all about collaboration and communication, so it's important to engage with your team and make sure everyone is on the same page. This can involve holding regular meetings, providing clear feedback and guidance, and making sure everyone has a voice in the process.

Focus on delivering value – Agile development is about delivering value quickly and efficiently. To get your agile process back on track, make sure your team is focused on delivering value at every stage of the development process. This can involve prioritizing tasks, cutting out unnecessary work and regularly checking in with your customers to ensure you are meeting their needs.

Be open to change – Agile development is a flexible and adaptable process that requires a culture of iteration and continuous improvement. If a process is not working for your team, it is important to be open to changing your approach if it is not working. This can involve experimenting with different techniques and tools or even adopting a different agile methodology if it better suits your team.

If your agile process has broken, don't panic! We can help.



COLOMBIA

Calle 26, Sur # 48-41, 5th Floor
Envigado, Antioquia

UNITED STATES (INTERNATIONAL)

9130 Jollyville Rd, Suite 175
Austin, TX 78759

COSTA RICA

A016, Curridabat, 11801
San José, Costa Rica

www.growthaccelerationpartners.com

Growth Acceleration Partners is an expert in all things agile.

We help companies build teams that are properly trained and held to agile disciplines. GAP has empowered hundreds of organizations to achieve their goals with world-class technology consulting and engineering teams.

We bring the skills, experience, expertise and domain knowledge that enables companies to scale smarter, transform their business and gain a competitive edge. **Let's talk!**

