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Merging Waterfall & Agile Methodologies

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As Director of Implementation Services & Solutions, William Hinshaw specializes in establishing Portfolio, Program & Project Management Processes, Agile Transformations, Agile Deployments and Optimization, Change Management, Risk Management and Training.

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AGENDA

- 1. Session Purpose & Ground Rules
- 2. Conceptual Commonalities between Methodologies
 - a) Portfolio Layer
 - b) Program Layer
 - c) Execution Layer
- 3. Misconceptions around each Methodology
- 4. Achieving Success by merging each Methodology



Session Purpose

- To illustrate how understanding, and leveraging, the similarities within each methodology can improve project success within any organization.
- To build recognition that "Methodology" alone does not define success.
- Hybrid solutions are a valid option to achieving success.



Session Ground Rules

- 1. Place electronic devices on silent
- 2. Ask questions at any time!
 - Introduce yourself (name / role / organization)
- 3. Remain open to the ideas of others



Conceptual Commonalities - Portfolio

- Project portfolio management is defined as the "centralized management of one or more portfolios that enable executive management to meet organizational goals and objectives through efficient decision making on portfolios, projects, programs and operations."
- The Portfolio Level contains the principles, practices, and roles needed to initiate and govern a set of development Value Streams. This is where strategy and investment funding are defined for value streams and their Solutions.



Conceptual Commonalities - Portfolio

Scaled Agile

- Value Streams
- Strategic Themes
- Epics / Enablers
- Backlog
- Portfolio Canvas
- KPI's

Traditional Waterfall

- Strategic Roadmaps
- Architectural Vision
- Aligning Process Groups
- Prioritizations
- Portfolio Charters
- Performance Indicators



Conceptual Commonalities - Portfolio

Portfolio Level deliverables are about creating the initial boundaries, priority and identification of the work to be executed.

Does the Methodology matter at this level?Or

Does the documentation at this level need to be methodology specific?

Conceptual Commonalities – Program

- The program level is where development teams, stakeholders, and other resources are devoted to some important, ongoing system development mission.
- A program is a group of related projects managed in a coordinated manner to obtain benefits not available from managing them individually. Program management is the application of knowledge, skills, tools and techniques to meet program requirements.



Conceptual Commonalities - Program

Scaled Agile

- Continuous Delivery Pipeline
- Backlog Grooming
- PI Objectives
- Program Increments

Traditional Waterfall

- Release Management Process
- Project Prioritizations
- Project Charters / Scoping
- Project Plans



Conceptual Commonalities - Program

Program Level deliverables are about creating manageable units of work to be scheduled, executed, and delivered.

Which Methodology works for your environment?

- What is the Project Management Maturity level of the organization?
- Can you Release on Demand?
- What level of engagement do you have culturally within the organization?



Conceptual Commonalities – Execution

- Project management is the application of knowledge, skills, tools, and techniques to project activities to meet the project requirements.
- The Team Level contains the roles, activities, events, and processes which Teams build and deliver value.



Conceptual Commonalities - Execution

Scaled Agile

- Sprints
- Backlog Grooming
- Kanban Status
- Velocity based calculations

Traditional Waterfall

- 2 week look ahead
- Rolling Wave Planning
- Start / Finish Focus
- Durational based calculations



Conceptual Commonalities - Execution

Execution Level deliverables are a direct reflection of the teams ability to produce in a predictable, timely and quality based manner.

Which Methodology works for your Team?

- 1. Is your team's work predictable?
- 2. Can the defined work pass the **INVEST** test?
- 3. What is the culture of the team doing the work?



Common Misconceptions - Traditional Waterfall

- "Too rigid to handle the flexibility of my unknowns"
- "Project plans are too large and cumbersome to understand"
- "I can't plan that far out"
- "I have to know everything before I can plan the work"
- "Too much documentation"
- "Too many processes"

Are these really the fault of the Methodology?



Common Misconceptions - Agile

- "Just throw it a sprint and it'll get done"
- "No visibility to when something is going to be finished"
- "I don't have the ability to dedicate resources"
- The Manifesto states "over" not NO!
 - Progress over Process
 - Working Software over documentation
- Teams hourly Capacity = Team Story Point Velocity

Are these really the fault of the Methodology?



So which Methodology works best for you?

Why are you only using ONE Methodology?





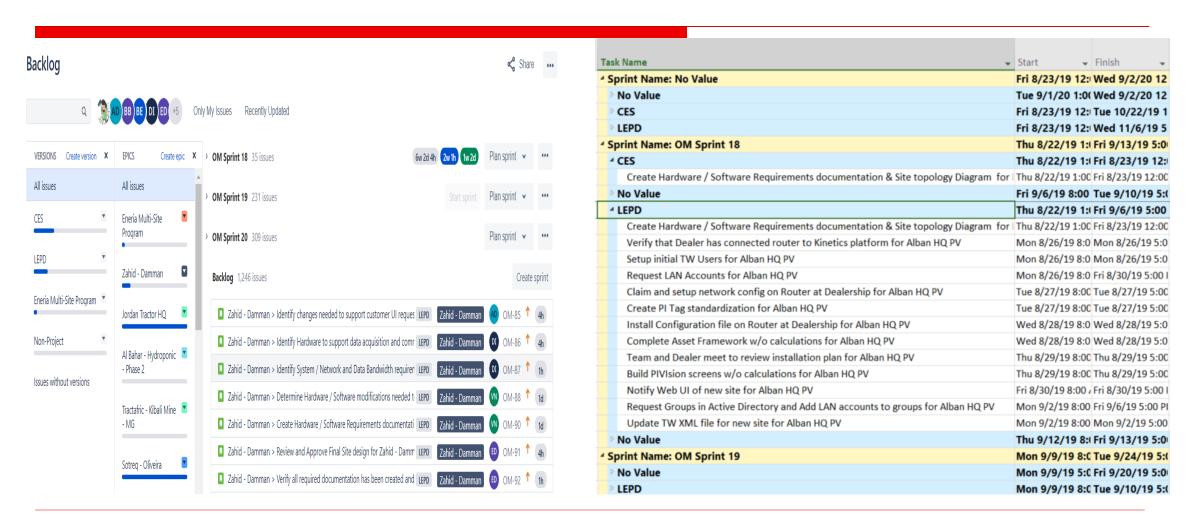
- AGIFALL is a common sense approach to Project Management designed to leverage the best of both Methodologies without sacrificing the integrity of either.
 - Chartering Value Streams
 - Scoping Capabilities / Features / Epics / Enablers
 - Utilizing Kanban status to update MS Project plans
 - Leverage MS Project plans to groom backlogs / schedule sprints / PI Planning
 - Reporting impacts of Velocity against target completion dates
 - Resource loading sprints with non-dedicated teams



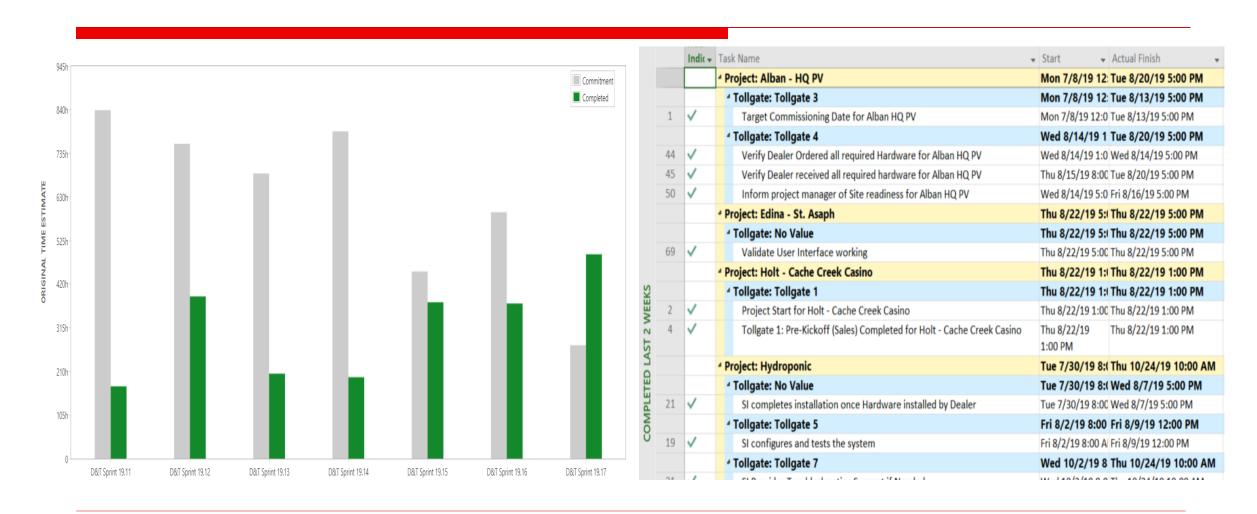
 AGIFALL allows organizations to focus their Project Management based on the 3 key pillars, rather than a single Methodology.













AGIFALL excels when:

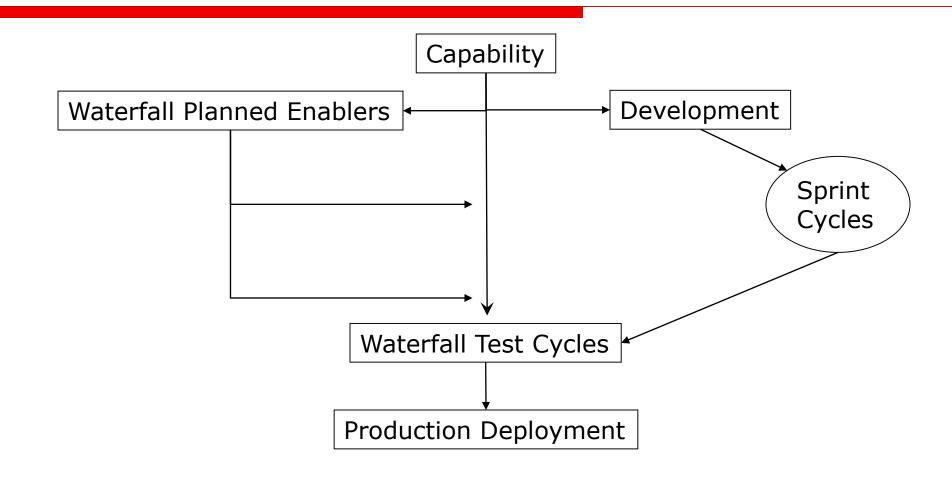
- The work items inside an efforts fails the INVEST acronym
 - Is this story Independent?
 - Is this story Negotiable?
 - Is this story Valuable?
 - Is this story Estimable?
 - Is this story Sized appropriately?
 - Is this story **T**estable?
- At the Program level for Monitoring and Controlling projects using different methodologies.
- Working with non-dedicated or cross methodology oriented functional teams.
- Where end-to-end project plan execution extends beyond application development.
- When an executive office manages in a traditional manner



Stakeholder Updates

Waterfall Agile 2 week look ahead Sprint Planning Daily Stand Ups Storyboard Updates Task Status / Actual Finish ← → Project Schedule Updated Project Reporting Sprint Reporting





Utilizing Technology:

- "Bridging" software allows Agile software to be linked with MS Project
 - Azure DevOps Boards to MSP
 - JIRA to MSP (Ceptah)
 - Etc...
- Stakeholder reporting with Real-Time data
 - Burndown charts driving critical path
 - Variance reports calculated based on sprint burndown
 - Resource Allocations in MSP controlling sprint loading
 - Backlog reports that incorporate target dates using MSP



Closing Comments

- PMBOK, Agile Manifesto, and SAFe are guidelines to be used to create a consistent Project Management approach to achieving success.
 - How you deploy, leverage, implement or establish them is always a decision to be made based on the 3 key pillars
 - There is no such thing as a "silver bullet"
 - The Project Management Maturity level of your organization will always control the ability to execute any Methodology.
- Think big, plan small, execute with control, deliver only quality.





Thank You



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