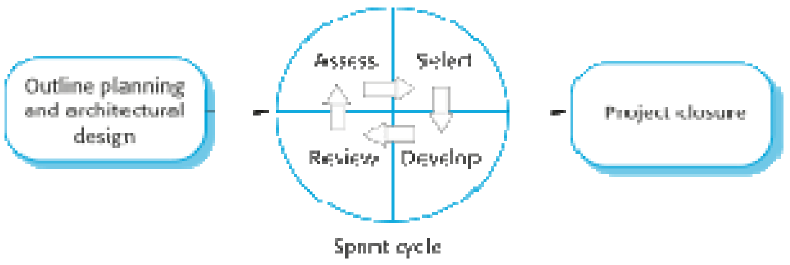
## Agile project management

- The principal responsibility of software project managers is to manage the project so that the software is delivered on time and within the planned budget for the project.
- The standard approach to project management is plan-driven. Managers draw up a plan for the project showing what should be delivered, when it should be delivered and who will work on the development of the project deliverables.
- Agile project management requires a different approach, which is adapted to incremental development and the particular strengths of agile methods.

## Scrum

- The Scrum approach is a general agile method but its focus is on managing iterative development rather than specific agile practices.
- There are three phases in Scrum.
  - The initial phase is an outline planning phase where you establish the general objectives for the project and design the software architecture.
  - This is followed by a series of sprint cycles, where each cycle develops an increment of the system.
  - The project closure phase wraps up the project, completes required documentation such as system help frames and user manuals and assesses the lessons learned from the project.

## The Scrum process



## The Sprint cycle

- Sprints are fixed length, normally 2–4 weeks. They correspond to the development of a release of the system in XP.
- The starting point for planning is the product backlog, which is the list of work to be done on the project.
- The selection phase involves all of the project team who work with the customer to select the features and functionality to be developed during the sprint.

## The Sprint cycle

- Once these are agreed, the team organize themselves to develop the software. During this stage the team is isolated from the customer and the organization, with all communications channelled through the so-called 'Scrum master'.
- The role of the Scrum master is to protect the development team from external distractions.
- At the end of the sprint, the work done is reviewed and presented to stakeholders. The next sprint cycle then begins.

## Teamwork in Scrum

- The 'Scrum master' is a facilitator who arranges daily meetings, tracks work to be done, records decisions, measures progress and communicates with customers and management outside of the team.
- The whole team attends short daily meetings where all team members share information, describe their progress since the last meeting, problems that have arisen and what is planned for the following day.
  - This means that everyone on the team knows what is going on and, if problems arise, can re-plan short-term work to cope with them.

## Scrum benefits

- The product is broken down into a set of manageable and understandable chunks.
- Unstable requirements do not hold up progress.
- The whole team have visibility of everything and consequently team communication is improved.
- Customers see on-time delivery of increments and gain feedback on how the product works.
- Trust between customers and developers is established and a positive culture is created in which everyone expects the project to succeed.

## Scaling agile methods

- Agile methods have proved to be successful for small and medium sized projects that can be developed by a small co-located team.
- The need for faster delivery of software (suits the customer needs)
- It is sometimes argued that the success of these methods comes because of improved communications which is possible when everyone is working together.
- Scaling up agile methods involves changing these to cope with larger, longer projects where there are multiple development teams, perhaps working in different locations.

## Large systems development

- Large systems are usually collections of separate, communicating systems, where separate teams develop each system. Frequently, these teams are working in different places, sometimes in different time zones.
- Large systems are 'brownfield systems', that is they include and interact with a number of existing systems. Many of the system requirements are concerned with this interaction and so don't really lend themselves to flexibility and incremental development.

## Large systems development

- Where several systems are integrated to create a system, a significant fraction of the development is concerned with system configuration rather than original code development.
- Large systems and their development processes are often constrained by external rules and regulations limiting the way that they can be developed.

## Large system development

- Large systems have a long procurement and development time. It is difficult to maintain coherent teams who know about the system over that period as, unavoidably, people move on to other jobs and projects.
- Large systems usually have a diverse set of stakeholders. It is practically impossible to involve all of these different stakeholders in the development process.

## Scaling out and scaling up

- ‘Scaling up’ is concerned with using agile methods for developing large software systems that cannot be developed by a small team.
- ‘Scaling out’ is concerned with how agile methods can be introduced across a large organization with many years of software development experience.
- When scaling agile methods it is essential to maintain agile fundamentals
  - Flexible planning, frequent system releases, continuous integration, test-driven development and good team communications.

## Scaling up to large systems

- For large systems development, it is not possible to focus only on the code of the system. You need to do more up-front design (requirements fixing bugs) and system documentation
- Cross-team communication mechanisms have to be designed and used. This should involve regular phone and video conferences between team members and frequent, short electronic meetings where teams update each other on progress.
- Continuous integration, where the whole system is built every time any developer checks in a change, is practically impossible. However, it is essential to maintain frequent system builds and regular releases of the system.

## Scaling out to large companies Difficulties

- Project managers who do not have experience of agile methods may be unwilling to accept the risk of a new approach.
- Large organizations often have quality procedures and standards that all projects are expected to follow and, because of their bureaucratic nature, these are likely to be incompatible with agile methods.

## Scaling out to large companies Difficulties

- Agile methods seem to work best when team members have a relatively high skill level. However, within large organizations, there are likely to be a wide range of skills and abilities.
- There may be cultural resistance to agile methods, especially in those organizations that have a long history of using conventional systems engineering processes.

## Key points

- A particular strength of extreme programming is the development of automated tests before a program feature is created. All tests must successfully execute when an increment is integrated into a system.
- The Scrum method is an agile method that provides a project management framework. It is centred round a set of sprints, which are fixed time periods when a system increment is developed.
- Scaling agile methods for large systems is difficult. Large systems need up-front design and some documentation.