INSIGHT XCHANGE S5-03

April 2024

Agile, Predictive or Hybrid: What is best for my project?



The Xchange Effect Map



This map shows that there is room to expand the Exchange Effect in regions such as Latin American (ongoing), Scandinavian Countries, Russia and China (and neighboring countries).

470

Attendees

Countries*

Continents



*45 countries correspond to attendees. There were attendees 1. This is the registrations' map. with no Country data available.



North America Dr Pitchiah Balasubramanian



Question:

Can you share an example from your experience where the Agile, Predictive, or Hybrid approach significantly influenced the outcome of a project? How did the chosen methodology contribute to the project's success or challenges?

Answer:

One of the banking modernization and transformation programs I lead managed for the super regional banks in USA, I have used more than one approaches. For in house development we used Agile approach where we have multiple agile crews with 2 and 4 weeks sprints for configuration work and enhancements work. When we involve vendors into the mix, we tailor-made our approaches to fit into in-house and vendor delivery processes. I firmly believe that the approach is just guidelines and we should use the one or the combination of more than one approach es to deliver the program outcomes.

Question:

What factors do you consider most crucial when deciding between Agile, Predictive, or Hybrid methodologies for a specific project? How do you navigate the trade-offs between adaptability and structure to ensure the chosen approach aligns with project objectives?

Answer:

I considered the project objectives, scope, budget and timeline when selecting the relevant development approach. I also considered my team's abilities and preferences as additional elements while doing the selection. By understanding the pros and cons each methodology against the needs and requirements and select the best fit development approach because selecting irrelevant development approaches could result in resource waste, missed timelines and over budget and ultimately not meeting the program objectives.



Africa Richard Magu

Ouestion:

Can you share an example from your experience where the Agile, Predictive, or Hybrid approach significantly influenced the outcome of a project? How did the chosen methodology contribute to the project's success or challenges?

Answer:

I was leading a software product development initiative where I initially sought to use a purely agile approach. The delivery team was very competent in the use of agile and it seemed that agile was the way to go. I had to reconsider when key stakeholders from the client expressed concerns with understanding agile and their fears that they would not know what was going on if we used a purely agile approach. In the end we settled on a hybrid approach and this proved to ideal for the delivery team and the key stakeholders and the initiative is progressing well (it is still ongoing).



Question:

What factors do you consider most crucial when deciding between Agile, Predictive, or Hybrid methodologies for a specific project? How do you navigate the trade-offs between adaptability and structure to ensure the chosen approach aligns with project objectives?

Answer:

Key considerations from my perspective are: Value sought from the project (implicit in this is the scope, schedule and cost of the project), Stakeholders (the delivery teams capability with the various ways of working and key stakeholders understanding of the different approaches)



Asia
David Khaw
Moderator



Question:

Can you share an example from your experience where the Agile, Predictive, or Hybrid approach significantly influenced the outcome of a project? How did the chosen methodology contribute to the project's success or challenges?

Answer:

Over the last two years, I was a program manager and client representative in a construction project. When the general contractor (GC) and their subcontractors' schedules are delayed, my program schedule is significantly impacted, and I need to be adaptive throughout the project schedule. By the end of my program, I supposedly finished the last, but I was the first to complete and deliver the desired outcome according to the client's expectations and requirements. Ultimately, the strategy to hybridise the approach while GC still pretty much follows their waterfall approach, and I managed my program in an adaptive approach to ensure I deliver the value to my client as soon as possible without impacting the safety and quality of the construction. As a nonconstruction PM, I could contribute from different approaches to the project, which opened up the minds of my fellow construction colleagues.

Question:

What factors do you consider most crucial when deciding between Agile, Predictive, or Hybrid methodologies for a specific project? How do you navigate the trade-offs between adaptability and structure to ensure the chosen approach aligns with project objectives?

Answer:

I will use the waterfall approach when the project outcome is predictable, and the schedule is well-planned. However, if the project outcome is unpredictable or the schedule cannot be developed clearly, I will use a hybrid approach to manage the project. I will also use an adaptive approach when VUCA situations present themselves. A high-level schedule (waterfall) is good for managing the client/key stakeholder's expectations while setting the project vision and goal. This principle is how I lead my project managers within my program. Maybe I no longer manage projects, but in program management, I ensure all project schedules within the program are aligned with the program's benefits and business value. Approach no longer matters to me as long as it takes whatever to get things done and focus on what matters most. For sure, PMI® ethics and professional conduct applied when I applied these principles.

This Insight Xchange Nugget

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Have a suggestion?

Feel free to drop a note to the PMI Chapter Xchange team by sending email to: pmichapterxchange@gmail.com