

Project Note

# Agile software development at a major corporation

Using agile practices based on Scrum Zühlke developed a new graphical user interface within tight deadlines synchronized with the traditional product lifecycle process of Schneider Electric.

**Task**

The new user interface was a prominent component of a product that Schneider Electric was developing in a large-scale project. The sub-project began quite late and the deadlines to meet the requirements were tight. Given the time constraints, the project management considered agile software development to be ideal and commissioned Zühlke to develop the user interface using agile practices.

**Implementation**

The adapted contract for work and services for the project allowed the team to apply agile practices while giving the customer budget certainty and flexibility in dealing with changes in the currently defined specifications.

Zühlke adapted the phase model of the Rational Unified Process to the phases of the customer's group-wide development process and iterations of four weeks duration each were planned. The project was executed based on Scrum and supplemented by explicit risk management.

Every week the participants jointly examined the current executable software version to identify changes quickly and incorporate them into the backlog accordingly. At the end of each iteration, Schneider Electric received a tested software version, and the next iteration was planned in detail together with Zühlke.

The developers continuously assured the software quality using continuous integration, unit tests and automated user interface testing. For this purpose the project management and the team used the Microsoft Team Foundation Server. Key success factors were the tight communication with the customer and his faith of the in the advantages of agile software development.



**Technical Data**

Process: RUP, Scrum

IDE: Visual Studio

Configuration Management: TFS Version Control

Project management: TFS Work Item Tracking

Implementation: C#, WPF

Agile practices: Continuous Integration, Refactoring, Unit Tests

**Customer benefits**

- The customer got planning certainty and flexibility at the same time by adjusting the project constraints.
- Using agile practices, the team was able to incorporate changes at short notice. The customer always had an overview of the project progress.
- Source code was supplied regularly, allowing the customer to integrate it early in his environment and to regularly assure the overall build process.

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