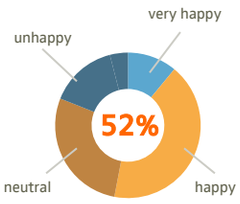
There's More to Agile than Development

In a recent survey at the Agile2012 conference in Dallas, Texas, conference attendees shared their thoughts on the latest state of agile software development – what's working, the extent of agile adoption, their biggest challenges and much more. The Agile2012 survey shows that development teams have coalesced on key agile practices, but lack of communication with customers, operations and other development teams is the biggest threat to agile success.

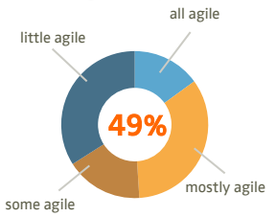
How Is Agile Doing? Good but Could Be Better

Customer Satisfaction



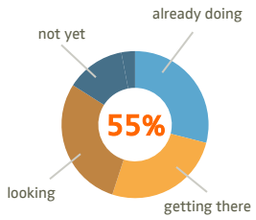
52% of customers are happy or very happy with agile projects. 15% are unhappy and 28% are neutral on agile projects.

Agile Adoption



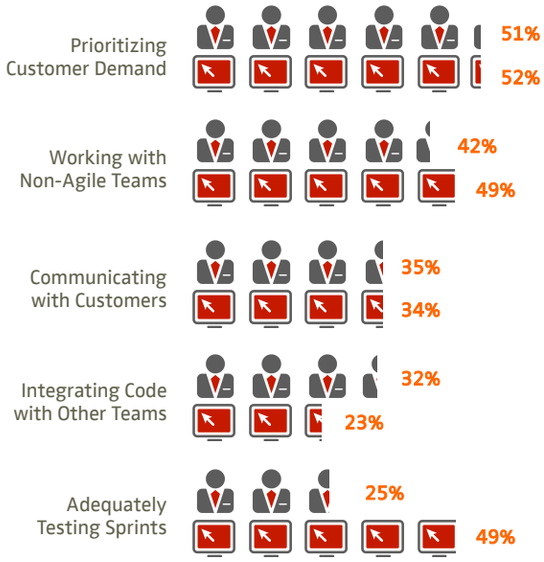
Agile practices are still not widely embraced, with just 49% saying that the most of their company is doing agile development.

Continuous Delivery



Continuous delivery is a trending agile topic. 55% of respondents are investigating or already doing continuous delivery.

Communication Is the Biggest Agile Challenge



What do you consider your biggest agile challenge?

Communication is limiting how much more successful agile development can be. Both managers and developers agreed that four of the top five agile roadblocks involved working with other teams and customers. The biggest challenge? Over 50% indicated that understanding and prioritizing customer demand needed the most improvement. The only disagreement? Developers felt that sprints needed to be tested more thoroughly.

= management's view
= development's view

How much visibility do teams have into your releases?

While agile teams are doing very well, survey respondents feel that upstream and downstream stakeholders are left out the communication loop with sprints. Even though they are the first line of response, IT Operations and Support are involved with less than 40% of release plans. But considering that the Agile Manifesto's "highest priority is to satisfy the customer," what's even more surprising is that customers only have visibility into releases 45% of the time.

Customers
- 22% involved in standups
- 45% have visibility into releases

Support
- 17% involved in standups
- 34% have visibility into releases

IT Operations
- 18% involved in standups
- 40% have visibility into releases

Top Recommendations for Your Agile Business

Act agile and think globally. Teams are different. In fact, 50% of organizations use hybrid development methodologies. Remember that not everyone is agile.

Look across the entire lifecycle. Even the greatest agile team can't be successful if they can't get their code effectively tested, deployed, supported and improved.

Don't forget the mainframe. 17% of survey respondents are doing agile development on mainframe environments, which power many of today's most critical applications.

Serena Software provides solutions to help drive the agile enterprise. To find out how Serena can make your entire IT lifecycle more agile, visit serena.com/after-agile2012.

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