

Agile Initiate Start Me Up

Course Description

This course dives deep into the initiation phase of the Agile process and gives attendees a thorough understanding and hands-on experience of the steps and techniques involved.

The initiation phase relies on the successful identification and prioritisation of user stories. User stories are the core of Agile requirements, capturing features of the application in small (1 -3 day) testable chunks that deliver business value. Not all stories will require developing software, but many of them will, so stories are also the interface between the business, the developers, and the test analysts.

This course takes you through the process and the deliverables involved in the initiation phase. You will take a case study through each of the initiation steps - solution refinement; story identification; story prioritisation; story estimation; and release planning - looking at the deliverables from each step and the techniques used to produce them.

Course Outline

Context

- Background
- Agile values and principles
- A simulation of the Agile development process
- Introduction to common agile practices

Objectives and structure of the initiate phase

- The initiate phase in the overall process
- Who, why, how, what and for how long?
 - why – because we want working software
 - how - steps of the deliver phase
 - what - creation of standard artefacts for external parties
 - who – roles and responsibilities

Concept review

- What happened in concept? Why?
- Common techniques used in the concept phase
- What should have been produced?
- What to do if the concept phase wasn't completed

Preparation and kick-off

- Preparation
 - Individuals review outcomes of the concept phase
 - Identifying the stakeholders
 - Understanding the current situation
 - Planning and resource for the initiate phase
- Techniques
 - Workshop approach and the workshop daily cycle
 - Facilitation techniques and tools
 - Daily stand-ups, retrospectives, story wall
- Kick –Off
 - Group review outcomes of the concept phase

Refine solution

- Purpose and deliverables
- Challenging assumptions and brainstorming for cost-effective alternatives
- Reviewing and refining project risks
- Refining the quality and success criteria
- Establishing a technical vision and solution architecture
- Investigating technical risks with spikes
- Using prototypes (lo-fi, paper and hi-fi) to solicit quick feedback

Story identification

- Purpose and deliverables
- Introduction to stories
- INVEST characteristics of a good story
 - Independent, negotiable, valuable, estimable, small, testable



Learning Objectives

Get a detailed understanding of the initiation phase, the steps within it, and the techniques that are commonly used.

Target

Audience

Analysts, developers, testers, project managers, architects and subject matter experts. Team leaders & line managers can also get a good overview of the process and practices to use in non-software development environments.