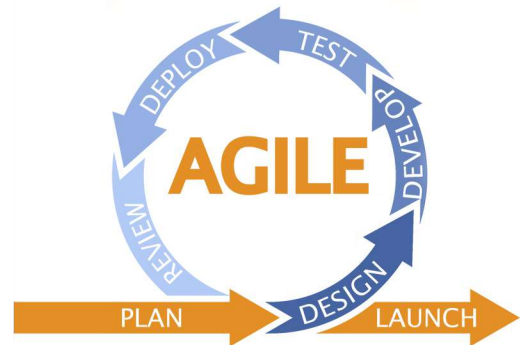


MASTERING AGILE PHILOSOPHY ACROSS MULTIPLE AREAS OF PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

BigR.io is a US based technology and consulting company with its headquarters in Boston. We empower our clients to drive innovation and advanced analytics through the use of data science. Our expertise in software engineering, product development, database technologies, cloud engineering, web and mobile applications development has helped us to create some highly specialized services and solutions using AI, ML and NLP proprietary tools.

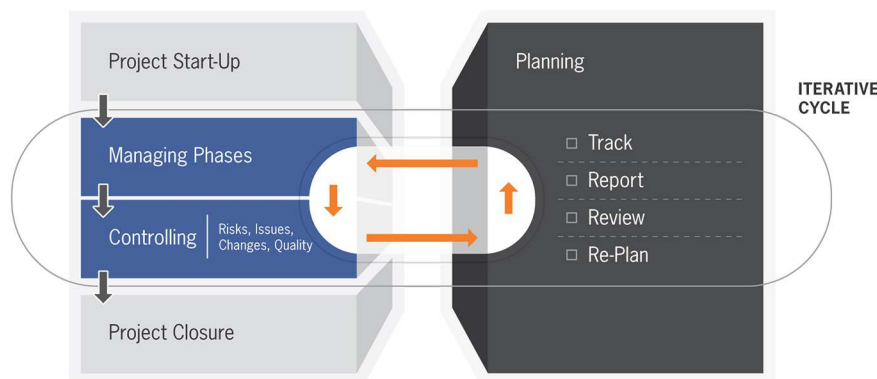
BigR.io stands out as a thought leader in Agile framework, delivering custom solutions to its clients on the same robust and scalable engineering platform that backs its software and integration offerings. We believe that Agile is a mindset or philosophy, rather than a methodology. Agile philosophy is using set of principles to guide you in the choices you make (Agile Manifesto). Of course, there are tools to achieve those principles and those tools can be different. For example, Scrum Framework, Kanban, Lean Software Development (LSD), Extreme Programming, Feature Driven development to name a few.



All those tools can contribute to achieving the Agile mindset. And since it is a philosophy – it can be implemented across multiple areas of Product Development, regardless of the industry. One of the approaches our clients like to use a lot is MVP (Minimal Viable Product) - that includes feature prioritization and provide customer value by delivering minimal features that can be used early. The feedback is fast! It allows the ability to build a better product that will resonate with future users.

MASTERING AGILE

BigR.io builds all projects utilizing an “Agile without Religion” philosophy. Our flexible approach is based on the original text and intent of the Agile Manifesto, foregoing heavyweight “agile” methodologies aimed at larger, less flexible organizations. This approach allows the team and stakeholders to efficiently collaborate and craft the process to best suit actual ongoing needs, which leads to a faster, more accurate output.



BigR.io is a thought leader on Agile and hold Agile certification seminars; training the technical community in our approach to Agile development. Salient points of BigR.io's Agile methodology include:

- Short iterations of deliverable (tested) software - we recommend a 2 week cycle.
- Transparency and stakeholder involvement: mutual decisions and no surprises.
- Definition of done: all delivered stories include design, development, testing, and documentation. Note: we create “just enough” documentation; balancing speed with artifact creation for continuity of knowledge.
- Relative and ongoing estimation – utilizing story points and team velocity estimates to keep a firm grip on the reality of a project, rather than an idealized fiction.
- Modern testing automation – code is built, tested, and deployed in a continuous and automated manner.

BigR.io delivers customized solutions and architectures that maximize results for clients - on time and on budget. We drive results with cutting-edge open-source and off-the-shelf technologies, pulling in the best tools and systems for each unique use case and environment.

We do not prescribe to a one-size-fits-all mindset, rather we examine currently adopted practices and adjust them where necessary. In general, for delivery methodology we place importance on:

- Gathering requirements that are represented as user stories. This is done in a collaborative manner with stakeholders such as product owners or the product manager. The user stories are written to fit into an iteration.
- The user stories are estimated using relative story points, and large "epics" are split into smaller, more manageable units.
- Each story is assigned to an individual owner for task breakdown and focused management of story progress across contributors; implementation includes a brief design and a set of unit-tests to provide functional integrity and code coverage.
- As part of continuous integration, the stories undergo rigorous testing, and any resulting defects are addressed in the same iteration or moved to the next iteration based on priority.
- All unit tests are collected and turned into an automated smoke-test that runs on a nightly basis, or each time code is pushed to the integration branch.
- Peer reviews and a high level of team collaboration are encouraged at all times to maximize the probability of team success and delivery of a high-quality product.
- At the end of each iteration, completed stories are accepted by the product owner and marked as complete. Any deficiencies found during acceptance are addressed and corrected for future acceptance. Ongoing acceptance is encouraged where feasible. To be able to hit the ground running for the following sprint.
 - Planning - create Sprint Backlog, estimate and assign stories.
 - Backlog Refinement - prioritize the backlog stories for future sprint and high level estimation.
 - Sprint Demo/ Sprint Review with stakeholders.
 - Retrospective - assess the completed sprint, fine tune and improve the approach going forward.
 - Daily 15 minutes stand-up to get status on assigned work and blockers.



All iterations or sprints proceed with non-functional requirements in mind. The BigR.io team lead assures that we never deviate away from attributes highlighted by these requirements. With the modern tools and techniques that we employ, there will be a boost to the “maintainability” of the system. With well-documented code and automated logging, we will have audit trails and granularity for monitoring quality.

Our experience shows that collaboration is the key to success. What we learned while working with multiple clients is that flexibility is the key approach to get to the Agile Mindset. All clients are unique and have different business goals, organizational structures, and approaches. Therefore, we always listen and implement the most tailored style for the needs of our exclusive customers. For example, Hybrid of approaches – combination of Agile approach with other non-Agile techniques. It is very common that there are clients that want to achieve Agile Mindset, but cannot do it immediately, as there is an established structure in place. Having the ability to use the hybrid approach allows them to transition to Agility more efficiently and gradually.

We help you stay ahead of the curve working towards your success, by implementing Agile framework in our services and solutions. Thus if you are interested to partnering with us you can write to us at innovation@bigr.io

