



8 Principles of DSDM

DYNAMIC SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT METHODOLOGY – AN AGILE
PROJECT FRAMEWORK

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Focus on the Business Need



Deliver on Time



Collaborate



Never Compromise Quality



Build Incrementally from Firm Foundations



Develop Iteratively



Communicate Continuously and Clearly



Demonstrate Control

1. Focus on the Business Need



- **Establish the business case through the business need perspective**
 - **Create a sound and justified business case**
 - **Align the business case to organizational goals and priorities**
- **Seek continuous business sponsorship**
 - **Validate the business commitment through results**
 - **Seek managerial/business input to align the goals**
- **Guarantee Minimum Usable Subset (MUST)**
 - **Aim for the minimum usable state**
 - **Create a foundation to be built on in later iterations**

2. Deliver on Time

- Timebox work activities / Always hit deadlines
 - Allocate time periods to complete the work
 - Timeboxing fixed periods of time for each planned activity
 - Hitting deadlines builds trust in the process
- Develop priority conversations with a focus on what is needed
 - Hold conversations with business and project stakeholders to help determine timelines
 - Focus on what the business needs first to help meet organizational goals



3. Collaborate

- **Involve the right people at the right time**
 - **Bring in SME's and experts at points within the project when their experience can be best utilized**
- **Actively involve business representatives**
 - **Gain business support through open communication**
 - **Invite business leaders to meetings and inquire about their thoughts on the current state and progress**
- **Build a unified team through empowerment**
 - **Remove the top-down approach to project decisions**
 - **The project manager is their to serve as a guide to the process and a facilitator of communication, not the core decision make**



4. Never Compromise Quality

- Build in quality at the beginning
 - Decide as a team the minimum level of acceptable quality
- Test early, test often, test continuously
 - Test throughout the process to ensure quality is being met
- Continuously review quality goals and current level of quality
 - Review with the team on a regular basis the current level of quality and the current quality goals
 - Adjust goals as needed, but never sacrifice quality for time or extra features (remember MUST)



5. Build Incrementally from Firm Foundations



- **Confirm that the solution is correct and meeting expectations**
 - **Hold conversations regularly to show the current solution state and allow for input from project stakeholders**
 - **Ensure the project is on the right path and adjust as needed**
- **Adjust and re-assess priorities and project viability**
 - **Decide on and focus on the priorities needed to build a firm foundation**
 - **Building a firm foundation will more easily allow for expansion of the project later in other iterations of the development process**
 - **Recognize that change may occur, and adapt to it instead of fighting against it**

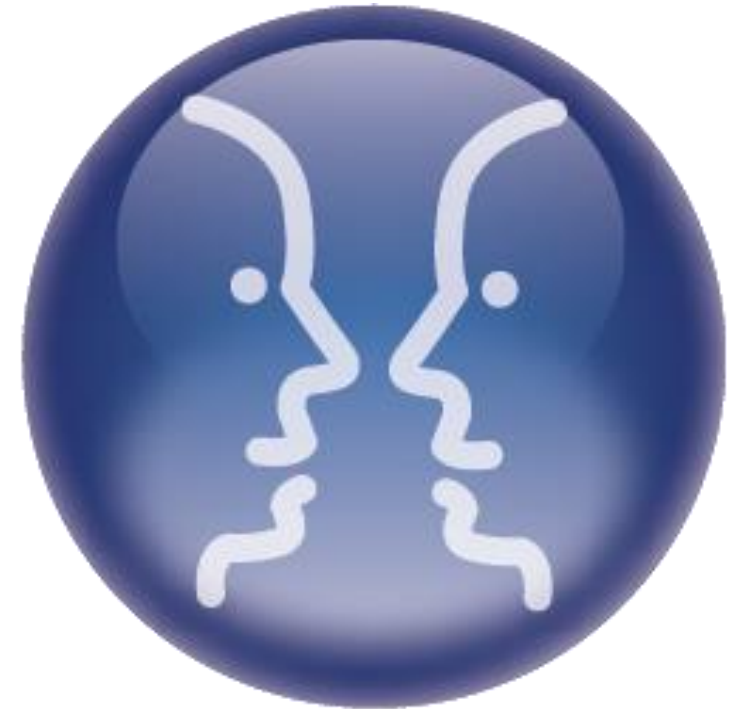
6. Develop Iteratively

- Create the strong foundation
 - A strong solid base is easier to expand on later – you wouldn't want to build a house on top of a broken foundation
- Try new things or look at things from a different perspective
 - Take others suggestions into consideration
 - Recognize that the process is fluid and not locked in
 - Try things first, experiment, be open to changes
- Allow detail to emerge later, rather than a strong detailed definition at the beginning
 - The project is being rough sketched in, as it progresses the sketch will become more detailed



7. Communicate Continuously and Clearly

- **Encourage effective and informal meetings**
 - Focus on the quality of the communication
 - Encourage additional input and suggestions
 - Engage in more collaborative practices
- **Use visual communication practices**
 - Use modeling or visual aids to help explain your point
- **Keep documentation lean**
 - Lots of documentation will never get read
 - Document enough to let others understand the basics



8. Demonstrate Control

- Results oriented project tracking
 - Rather than focus on completing each activity, focus on the results
 - Measure progress through delivery
- Keep project state transparent and open to anyone who cares
 - Make planning documents available to all
 - Project state should be openly and freely discussed
- Proactively manage the project, continuously evaluating progress
 - Keep expectations in check
 - Use an appropriately level of formality when reporting



Additional Sources

- ▶ <https://www.agilebusiness.org/what-is-dsdm>
- ▶ <https://www.agilebusiness.org/content/principles>
- ▶ <https://agile-mercurial.com/2018/07/09/a-full-lifecycle-agile-approach-dynamic-systems-development-methodology-dsdm/>
- ▶ *This material (DSDM) was created by the Agile Business Consortium. <https://agilebusiness.org>*

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