

Title

Business Value of Agile

Speaker(s)

Guy Saville / SA Home Loans

To whom is the presentation addressed?

This should be of interest to both IT and business managers, as well as project managers and anyone trying to better understand how Agile practices can transform traditional business management approaches and maximise the business value return on investments in projects. Most of the principles will apply equally to IT and non-IT projects.

Keywords

Agile, Scrum, Projects, Business

Abstract

Executive are frustrated because too many projects fail to deliver the expected business value. This is typically due to a combination of cumbersome and inflexible project management approaches, and the fast-moving, increasingly unpredictable business environment. It is difficult to base decisions on traditional business case approaches in the face of this uncertainty. We need a better way to manage this risk and to create a greater certainty of a project ROI.

An Agile approach addresses these risks, as it recognises change, unpredictability and complexity as being the dominant reality, and provides a mechanism for meaningful and early feedback. For complex projects, Scrum offers a specific methodology of building and releasing in an incremental manner, which allows management the opportunity to obtain and measure business value much earlier than would otherwise be possible. SA Home Loans (SAHL) has very successfully implemented Scrum and Agile practices across all software development, and sees further benefit in extending this into many business operations. Importantly, to maximise the benefits of Agile delivery, the implementation approach should be complemented by a similar style of executive decision making.

Biography

Guy is currently Director of IT & Systems at SA Home Loans. He started his career as a Chartered Accountant but during an 8-year stint working in the UK and US, he decided that IT presented a more appealing opportunity. His career has subsequently combined general management in retail banking and mortgage lending (at NBS Bank, BoE, Nedbank and SAHL) and IT management, in particular a hands-on involvement in developing retail banking systems and strategic process re-engineering. He has helped to steer SA Home Loans through a period of rapid IT and business expansion since 2004, and currently plays a senior role in the overall strategic leadership of SAHL. He is responsible for all IT services, with a primary focus on applications systems development. SAHL relies on a strong IT systems competency, and has developed its own suite of enterprise systems to manage the full lifecycle of lending operations.
