What Are Agile Models?

An agile model is a model that is just barely good enough, which implies that it exhibits the following traits:

1. It fulfills its purpose.
2. It is understandable.
3. It is sufficiently accurate.
4. It is sufficiently consistent.
5. It is sufficiently detailed.
6. It provides positive value.
7. It is as simple as possible.

What Is(n’t) AM?

1. AM is a supplement to existing methods, it is not a complete methodology.
2. AM is a way to work together effectively to meet the needs of project stakeholders.
3. AM is effective and is about being effective.
4. AM is something that works in practice, it isn’t an academic theory.
5. AM is not a silver bullet.
6. AM is not a prescriptive process.
7. AM is for the average developer, but is not a replacement for competent people.
8. AM is not an attack on documentation, instead AM advises to create documents that have value.
9. AM is not an attack on CASE tools.
10. AM is not for everyone.

Recommended Resources

Agile Alliance Home Page
www.agilealliance.com

Agile Modeling Home Page
www.agilemodeling.com

Agile Models Distilled
www.agilemodeling.com/artifacts

Modeling Style Guidelines
www.agilemodeling.com/style

Agile Modeling Mailing List
www.agilemodeling.com/feedback.htm

Agile Modeling FAQ
www.agilemodeling.com/faq.htm

Agile Modeling (The Book)
www.ambysoft.com/agileModeling.html

Agile Database Techniques Home Page
www.agiledata.org

Agile Model Driven Development (AMDD)
www.agilemodeling.com/essays/amdd.htm

Agile Model Driven Architecture (Agile MDA)
www.agilemodeling.com/essays/agileMDA.htm

Agile Modeling
An Overview
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Agile Modeling (AM) is a chaordic, practice-based methodology for effective modeling of software-based systems. The AM methodology is a collection of practices, guided by principles and values that can be applied by software professionals on a day-to-day basis. AM is not a prescriptive process, it does not define detailed procedures for how to create a given type of model; instead it provides advice for how to be effective as a modeler. Think of AM as an art, not a science.

AM has three goals:

1. To define and show how to put into practice a collection of values, principles, and practices pertaining to effective, light-weight modeling.
2. To explore how to apply modeling techniques on software projects taking an agile approach such as XP, Scrum, DSDM, or FDD.
3. To explore how you can improve modeling following an instantiation of the Unified Process such as the RUP, EUP, or AUP (www.ambysoft.com/unifiedprocess).
AMDD

Agile Model Driven Development (AMDD) is the agile version of Model Driven Development (MDD). The figure below overviews the fundamentals of AMDD:

- At the beginning of a project invest some time to do some initial modeling, particularly to explore the fundamental requirements and to identify a potential architectural approach.
- During development cycles you will typically model for several minutes and then implement for several hours or even days until you need to do some more modeling.
- The AM practices of Model With Others and Collective Ownership are effectively model reviews in process, removing the need for formal reviews.

Values

The Values of AM
- Communication
- Courage
- Feedback
- Humility
- Simplicity

Principles

Core Principles of AM
- Assume Simplicity
- Embrace Change
- Enabling the Next Effort is Your Secondary Goal
- Incremental Change
- Maximize Stakeholder Investment
- Model With a Purpose
- Multiple Models
- Quality Work
- Rapid Feedback
- Software is Your Primary Goal
- Travel Light

Supplementary Principles of AM
- Content Is More Important Than Representation
- Open and Honest Communication

Practices

Core Practices of AM
- Active Stakeholder Participation
- Apply The Right Artifact(s)
- Collective Ownership
- Create Several Models in Parallel
- Create Simple Content
- Depict Models Simply
- Display Models Publicly
- Iterate To Another Artifact
- Model in Small Increments
- Model With Others
- Prove it With Code
- Single Source Information
- Use the Simplest Tools

Supplementary Practices of AM
- Apply Modeling Standards
- Apply Patterns Gently
- Discard Temporary Models
- Formalize Contract Models
- Update Only When It Hurts

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