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TRACK SPOTLIGHT

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#### Steven Eppeinger Professor of Management Science and Innovation

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## EMBRACING AGILE PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT: MAKING ADJUSTMENTS FOR SUCCESS BEYOND SOFTWARE

MANAGEMENT

SLOAN SCHOOL

8012

### **STEVEN EPPINGER**

General Motors Leaders for Global Operations Professor Professor of Management Science and Innovation

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

#### **Educational Background**

 SB, SM, and ScD in Mechanical Engineering, MIT

#### **Research Areas**

- Product development processes and methods
- Complex system development
- Engineering project management
- Agile methods

#### Industry Experience

Aerospace Automotive Consumer Electronics Telecommunications Software Manufacturing Energy Systems Medical Devices Capital Equipment

### SOFTWARE TEAMS ARE USING AGILE.



How can we develop hardware this way?

### WHY AGILE NOW?

#### Software + Hardware



We develop software and hardware

#### Digital Workforce



Our workers are **digital** natives

#### Responding to Change



Change is the new **normal** 

The Right Tools



Workflows are **fully** digital

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#### **MIT PRODUCT DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT CLASS PROJECTS: TIME-BOXED SPRINTS**









### WHY BOTHER WITH AGILE?

Agile is Fast



Deliver value in each sprint





Goals replace detailed planning Agile is Flexible



Response to uncertainty and changes Agile is Familiar



You already use many of the methods

### **AGILE SPRINT PROCESS**



Feedback and Re-prioritization

### SOME AGILE EXPERIENCE



### WHAT'S THE SECRET TO APPLICATION OF AGILE OUTSIDE OF SOFTWARE TEAMS?

# ADJUSTMENT

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### **ADJUSTMENT: SPRINT CADENCE**

#### **Decoupling Sprints**

| HW |    |    | HW |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| SW | S₩ | SW | SW | SW | sw |

#### **Alternating Sprints**



- Hardware teams may need longer sprints
- Decouple sprint timing across teams, with occasional sync
- Alternate development sprints and operational sprints





#### Ministry of Supply<sup>°</sup>



### **ADJUSTMENT: GOAL DECOMPOSITION**



- Software teams "roll up" high-value stories to define sprint goals
- Instead, decompose major milestones to sprint goals, sprints to tasks
- Prioritize, solve problems and reduce risk in each sprint









### **ADJUSTMENT: REVIEWABLE INCREMENTS**



- Most software teams attempt to ship "usable code" in each sprint
- Hardware teams plan to achieve a "reviewable increment" in each sprint
- Results feed into next sprint(s)







### **CLOUD-BASED TOOLS SUPPORT AGILE DEVELOPMENT**



Cloud and Agile are not directly linked, but highly complementary



Agile development relies upon communication, information sharing, and transparency



Cloud-native platforms enable frictionless collaboration by reducing barriers and confusion

#### **CLOUD-BASED TOOLS BEING USED TODAY** Jira Trello onshape® miro zoom Microsoft 365 Google Workspace **slack** Μ U R Α M 💶 📥 📘 🗖 Figma Canva

**Microsoft Teams** 

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### **NEW WHITEPAPER AVAILABLE ONLINE**

Transitioning to Agile Development: How to Develop Hardware Like Software

Steven Eppinger, MIT Jon Hirschtick, PTC April 2023



### What's in the paper?

- Overview of Agile product development
- Explanation of the ways Agile methods can improve product development beyond software
- Step-by-step guide to broader Agile adoption

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# **CALL TO ACTION**



## THANK YOU

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