

HPE IT's nimble switch to HPE Agile Manager

Agile management platform fosters
collaboration and reduces development times

“HPE Agile Manager has boosted collaboration and improved our ability to track Agile development projects.”

— Linda Hansen, Product
Development IT, Hewlett
Packard Enterprise



Objective

Foster collaboration among Agile developers and improve the ability of managers to track development activity and progress

Approach

Implement a centralized Agile platform with built-in project management functionality

IT Matters

- Developers can more easily collaborate
- Code check-ins automatically tracked; development work automatically aggregated and correlated to respective user stories, facilitating more effective and real-time project visibility and management
- Synchronization with HPE ALM/QC ensures effective integration of quality activities into the Agile process

Business Matters

- Project development times reduced significantly
- Fosters agile culture, solidifying the benefits of agile throughout the company's development organization

“HPE Agile Manager leverages the power of HPE ALM to manage both functional and nonfunctional technical requirements. And because the two solutions can be easily integrated, we didn’t have to dismantle the organizational structures of our testing centers of excellence. HPE Agile Manager truly complements our investment in HPE ALM.”

— Patrick Blanchard, Product Development IT, Hewlett Packard Enterprise

Agile has the power to transform software development. Now Hewlett Packard Enterprise IT is leveraging HPE Agile Manager to further boost the value of Agile by fostering team collaboration and improving the ability of managers to monitor project status including coding, quality, and performance testing.

With 250,000 employees to support worldwide, Hewlett Packard Enterprise IT faces challenges familiar to IT organizations of all large, global enterprises. It is responsible for ensuring that HPE’s business-critical services are up and running around the clock. And to do that, HPE IT must manage a mind-boggling infrastructure of interdependent hardware and software components.

And so HPE IT continually seeks technology to boost productivity and efficiency, as well as the quality of its IT services.

Today, one of the primary solutions HPE IT leverages is HPE Agile Manager, an on-demand solution for Agile project management.

From disparate tools to a centralized communication hub

HPE IT’s development organization comprises around 10,000 employees; they are spread across every region worldwide, from North and South America, to Europe, to Asia Pacific. Collectively, they’re responsible for developing and maintaining every software application HPE needs to run its business. They’re responsible for HPE’s SAP® software and for HPE.com’s web applications. They perform business-critical tasks like integrating HPE business management tools with Salesforce.com. They develop small, innovative, custom applications that power HPE’s sales force and services teams. As these areas of responsibility suggest, HPE IT’s developers are crucial to HPE’s success as a business, supporting processes that do everything from maximize revenue and profitability, to helping HPE differentiate itself from its competitors.

But until recently, HPE IT’s developers didn’t have a centralized location for storing and



managing their Agile project activities. Some team members implemented collaboration tools to support specific projects; typically these were based on open source or custom-developed software, or on off-the-shelf commercial solutions like Microsoft® Excel®. But many developers used no tool at all. As a result, they had no standardized, universal collaboration platform. And because there was no central collaboration platform, HPE IT lacked a single, consolidated view into its development activities.

To remedy the situation, HPE deployed HPE Agile Manager to serve as a communication hub and decision support system for organizing, planning, and delivering agile projects.

Improved collaboration, real-time visibility

Within six months of deploying the solution, which is integrated with HPE's source code and build management tools, the team had achieved rapid voluntary adoption around the globe, touching nearly every major IT group. In addition, HPE also deployed the technology within other HPE organizations. HPE's Software Defined Networking team uses HPE Agile Manager to facilitate the development of its HPE Software solutions. And within the HPE Technology Services group, developers use HPE Agile Manager as their platform for creating support monitoring tools.

For these organizations, the benefits of using HPE Agile Manager began to accrue immediately.

Some of these benefits affect developers. They can easily and securely track development activities via a centralized repository, which enables them to work together more easily on development projects. "HPE Agile Manager fosters collaboration," notes Karen Middleton, Product Development IT, Hewlett-Packard Enterprise. "Developers can coordinate their coding, regardless of where they are physically located."

HPE Agile Manager delivers other benefits to HPE IT as well. Via its embedded HPE Application Lifecycle Intelligence (ALI) technology, the solution tracks and aggregates check-ins and correlates them to their respective requirements (known in Agile as "user stories"). This information is available to HPE IT managers via a single Web interface, which gives real-time visibility into progress, risk, and quality. The result is that managers can more easily achieve the benefits of Agile, most notably compressing development cycles through a more iterative framework. In addition, managers can more effectively monitor progress as it's happening, making HPE Agile Manager a powerful adjunct to Agile.

HPE ALM integration enhances HPE Agile Manager value

Because HPE's deployment of Agile Manager is also integrated with HPE Application Lifecycle Management, the solution enables teams to monitor application quality and performance. Managers can easily validate

Customer at a glance

Software

- HPE Agile Manager
 - HPE Application Lifecycle Intelligence
- HPE Application Lifecycle Management

that applications have been properly tested—an important safeguard to ensure applications meet HPE's quality standards.

The integration of HPE Agile Manager and HPE ALM also means that HPE testers—who already use HPE ALM—can switch from waterfall to Agile development without having to learn a new test management platform. HPE testers can therefore leverage HPE ALM to manage both functional and nonfunctional technical requirements. In addition, HPE didn't have to dismantle the organizational structures of its testing centers of excellence. This is particularly important to HPE IT because it is currently the world's single largest user of the HPE ALM solution.

Faster access to resources, better insight into costs

One of the most important benefits of HPE Agile Manager is that, because it is available as a SaaS solution, users can gain access to development resources very quickly. Instead of requisitioning, installing, and integrating the required hardware, software, documentation, and ticketing systems needed to run a development project—a process that can take weeks or longer—users simply self-provision the required resources via the HPE Agile Manager interface. This speeds the development cycle of some HPE projects significantly.

The SaaS framework also means that bug fixes are issued on a weekly basis, and

major releases of HPE Agile Manager are performed quarterly at the least—and often monthly. This helps keep costs smooth and predictable: development teams don't have to accommodate periodic spikes in their costs when it comes time to upgrade their hardware, for example.

In addition, all patches and upgrades are transparent to users and managers. The management of development projects is simplified, because platform management tasks are eliminated. Project teams can focus on development tasks instead of maintaining servers.

Enabling a transformational framework

Agile is transforming the development culture within many companies today—and HPE IT is no exception. Agile is shortening development cycles, lowering costs, and improving quality. Agile also impacts development teams in positive ways, facilitating better teamwork and encouraging developers to take ownership of projects.

With HPE IT, HPE Agile Manager now helps to drive these positive trends, fostering true collaboration and communication and enabling HPE to further leverage the power of Agile's transformative framework.

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