Agile 2 is Coming!

October 14, 2020 (Fairfax, VA) – **Agile 2 will be released to the public on October 19, 2020, nearly twenty years after the launch of the original Agile Manifesto. Agile 2 was created by a team of 16 Agile practitioners with the goal of defining a set of ideas that are a better fit for what Agile needs to be today. The Agile 2 team believes that these new guidelines will give Agilists a better foundation for how to apply Agile methods and successfully adopt the frameworks in order to realize the full benefits of an Agile adoption. Also, Agile 2 is explicitly not confined to software.**

The original Agile Manifesto was created in 2001 by The Agile Alliance, a group of software practitioners, which outlined 4 key values and 12 principles for software teams. Over the years, many of these concepts have seen challenges and there has been an emerging need for adaptation and more in-depth considerations. To further the Agile movement and bring a better alignment between Agile and the problems it was meant to solve, Agile 2 was developed and will be introduced to the Agile community next week.

In the words of Cliff Berg, a founding member of the Agile 2 effort, "There has been a groundswell of feeling among those using Agile - particularly on the technical and leadership sides - that while Agile had some good ideas, something was not quite right, that it had replaced one set of problems with another. Through an in-depth retrospective, and examination of prior retrospectives, such as the ten year retro done by the British Computer Society, we feel that Agile 2 brings back the balance that the original Agile Manifesto intended, while adding some depth and explanation that was missing from the original Manifesto."

Agile 2 was created by a consortium of experienced professionals from the fields of Lean product design, professional coaching, organization change, leadership, business, human resources, program management, engineering, DevOps and legacy Agile. Agile 2 is the cumulation of thoughts, insights and principles meant to bring better alignment between Agile and the problems it was meant to solve.

Some of the key insights that informed Agile 2 are:

- Leadership is key. Agile methods cannot work unless the issue of leadership is addressed in a nuanced and contextual manner.

- Every method should be tailored to the situation.

- Extremes usually do not work optimally in most situations—finding the right balance is key. Many Agile methods were too extreme or were one-size-fits-all.

- Decentralization and autonomy are essential, but they are aspirations, not absolutes; and coordination is essential for scaling Agile.

- Both collaboration and the isolation needed to think deeply are equally important and must be balanced depending on the work and the needs of the moment.

Muthu Vellayan, a DevOps lead at Perspecta, is an early reviewer of Agile 2 and shares his thoughts, "Experienced practitioners all know of *a thousand cuts* with Agile implementations but pushed through all of the ineffectiveness with compromises and enthusiasm. We did this because the alternatives we knew from the past were unspeakable. Agile 2 takes a thoughtful introspective look and provides insights to a catalog of recognized problems to effectively address them to get closer to achieving the Agile values."

Agile 2 will be released on October 19, 2020 and can be found at agile2.net.

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