



Regional 3Cs

Agile - A New Way to Build



Concepts Behind Agile Project Management

- Customer satisfaction by rapid, continuous delivery
- Results delivered frequently
- Even late changes in requirements welcomed
- Close daily cooperation between business people and developers
- Face to face conversation encouraged
- Continuous attention to technical excellence and good design
- Regular adaptation to changing circumstances

Adapted from the Agile Manifesto (2001)

The Regional Command and Control Communications (3Cs) Project is breaking away from traditional implementation models for communications projects. The new model, called Agile Project Management (Agile), is better suited to rapidly deploy a network and take advantage of grant funds with extremely tight deadlines while still ensuring a technically sound network design.

Traditionally, communications networks are built using a design/fund/build concept. Funding and timelines for the project are divided into two phases. Initially, a design budget is developed and a consultant is hired to study the proposed system. A detailed design document, including total costs and time required to build the system, is the final deliverable for this phase of the project. With this report in hand it is then up to government officials to find a way to pay for the entire system. It is not uncommon for “sticker shock” to set in and often the network never gets built.

The 3Cs project team wanted to take advantage of federal, state, local, and tribal grants which required equipment be purchased, installed, and operational in a short period of time. Additionally, these funds often have staggered deadlines which made a single construction phase prohibitive. Finally, because the system is intended for public safety use especially during critical incidents, it was determined that the network needed to be built to the high standards of public safety networks.

The 3Cs Project Team determined Agile was best suited to meet the very unique needs of the 3Cs network. Agile takes a traditional project and divides it into many unique build iterations. Each iteration is treated as a total project including budget, timelines, and resource allocation. By breaking the project into smaller manageable pieces, developers can focus on the current needs of the region and incorporate them into the project immediately. The end result is a network that is available to end users sooner, while still maintaining quality levels required for public safety.

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