TechExcel **DevSuite**

The implementation platform for scalable, agile development

With the right ALM implementation platform, all development projects can be managed to achieve agile results and be scalable to accomodate thousands of team members. TechExcel DevSuite is the first fully-integrated ALM solution built on a Blueprint Agile model for organizations to achieve agile results based on documented, controlled, and scalable processes.

All development should be agile and scalable

The complexity, scope, and size of development projects have grown. With this growth, managers have come to realize that development projects must be agile. These projects must be able to promptly adapt to changes in requirements in a controlled manner. Agility in a project, therefore, can be viewed as the ability to adjust the scope, timeframe, or deliverables as needed. Customers, market forces, and business goals are in a constant state of flux. In order to remain competitive, projects must embrace this change – but also control it. While the outcome of the project will always be a software product, the success of the project can be viewed in how well the team responds to change while also maintaining quality control over the product.

The best way to deal with change is to break complex projects into smaller, more manageable pieces and also to manage changes at the requirement and design level. The project should be represented as a set of milestones (or development phases.) Each milestone should be further defined by a set of short development cycles, or iterations. Resources can be assigned to each iteration and work on their personal share of the project. The accumulation of successful completion of each iteration results in the success of the whole project.

The role of an implementation platform: transform methodologies into daily practices

Management of this iterative process can be very complex. Guidelines and best practices help to overcome obstacles, but they are often broad and lack direct control over implementation. To truly implement an agile, iterative development culture, organizations must also adopt the right implementation platform. This platform, in the form of an Application Lifecycle Management system, is critical to the success of agile development projects. Development methodologies serve as guidelines or best practices. These guidelines can be adopted to promote a development culture. In this development culture, everyone speaks the same language in terms of how guidelines affect real-world tasks. However, guidelines alone cannot enable a team to execute development activities according to best practices. An ALM implementation platform serves the purpose of enforcing standard development methodologies and how those ideas take part in the team's daily work. The right ALM implementation platform aims to achieve agile development results while supporting standard development methods. It transforms high level development guidelines into daily practices through workflow controls, definable user interfaces, process automation rules, auto routing, auto escalation, and email notifications. The right ALM system can infuse any project, whether it is managed using SCRUM principles, Iterative Development, or higher level practices like CMMI, with the agility needed to succeed.

Any development project can be agile with the right ALM implementation platform. With the right ALM implementation platform, organizations can now manage their application development with a clearly defined goals and agile results. The right ALM implementation platform helps you to achieve agility regardless of methodology used.

Introducing DevSuite's Blueprint Agile model

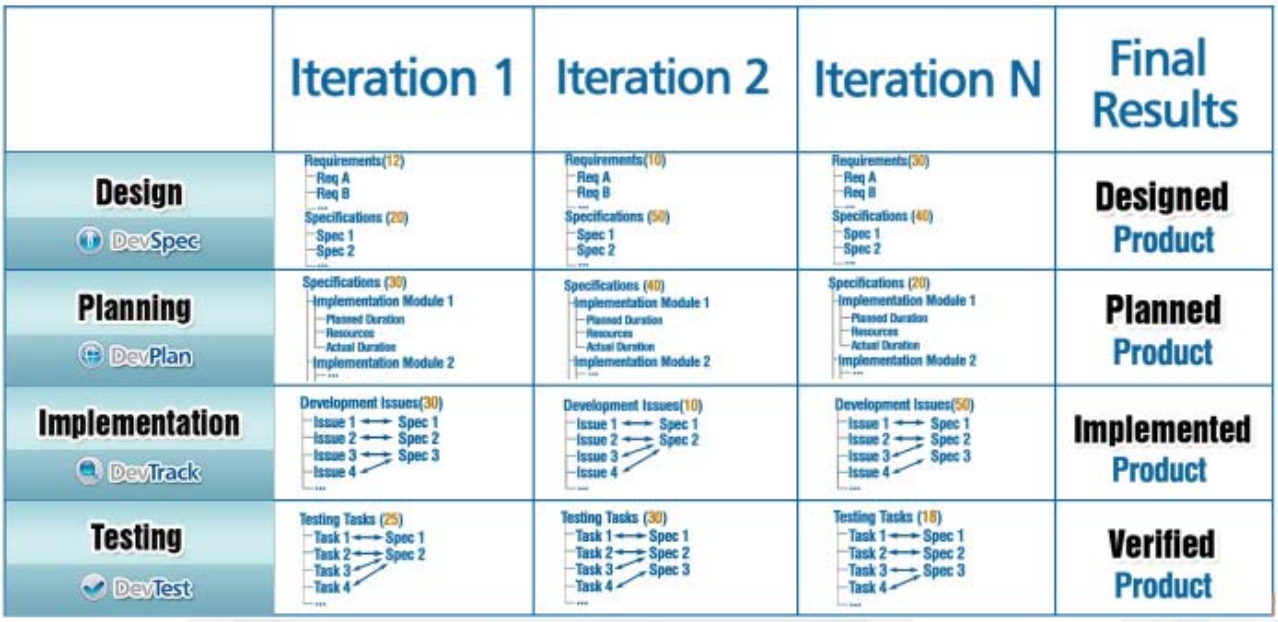
TechExcel DevSuite is developed as the ALM implementation platform for companies of any size to achieve agile development. It's workflow controls and process automation modules enable all team members to manage their daily design, planning, development, and QA testing tasks according to development best practices. In DevSuite, a development project is represented as an ever-progressing creation of four products: the designed, planned, implemented, and tested products. These products allow each iteration of development to progress concurrently. Design, planning, implementation, and QA testing activities are all included in this model.

DevSuite consists of four core products: DevSpec for requirement management and for quantifying requirements and designs with specifications. Product management uses DevSpec to build a "designed product" which consists of a set of specifications each linked with the proper requirements. The designed product is a set of specifications representing the work to be done for a given project.

Specifications allow a team to quantify their designs. The designs can then be planned for development work in DevPlan: DevSuite's project planning and implementation management tool. Project managers use DevPlan to build areas of work around the specifications defined in DevSpec, specify start times and end times, and assign resources to implement these features. This "planned product" consists of different milestones, iterations, and features to be implemented.

Once project planning has setup an iteration, implementation work is tracked using DevTrack. Quantified specifications represent work to be developed. Along with time and resource allocation, these serve as the blueprint for implementation and QA testing to follow. Developers use DevTrack to create development tasks for each specification. As developers finish development tasks, specifications become ready for QA testing. Testing verifies that the specifications are properly implemented.

At the same time as the planning and implementation, QA teams use DevTest to built test plans around the specifications. These plans are executed against the work created as a result of the DevTrack implementation effort. The final result of the iteration is a "tested product." This represents the software realization of the designs created in DevSpec, and completes an iteration of development. The chart below illustrates this concept.

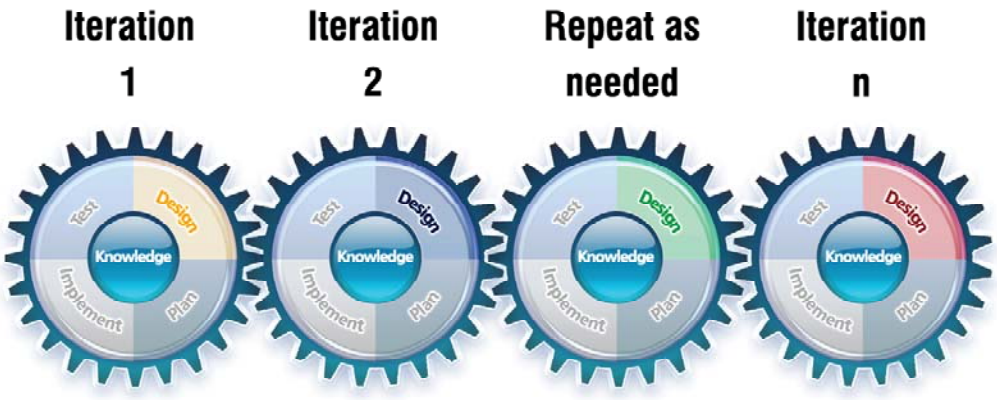


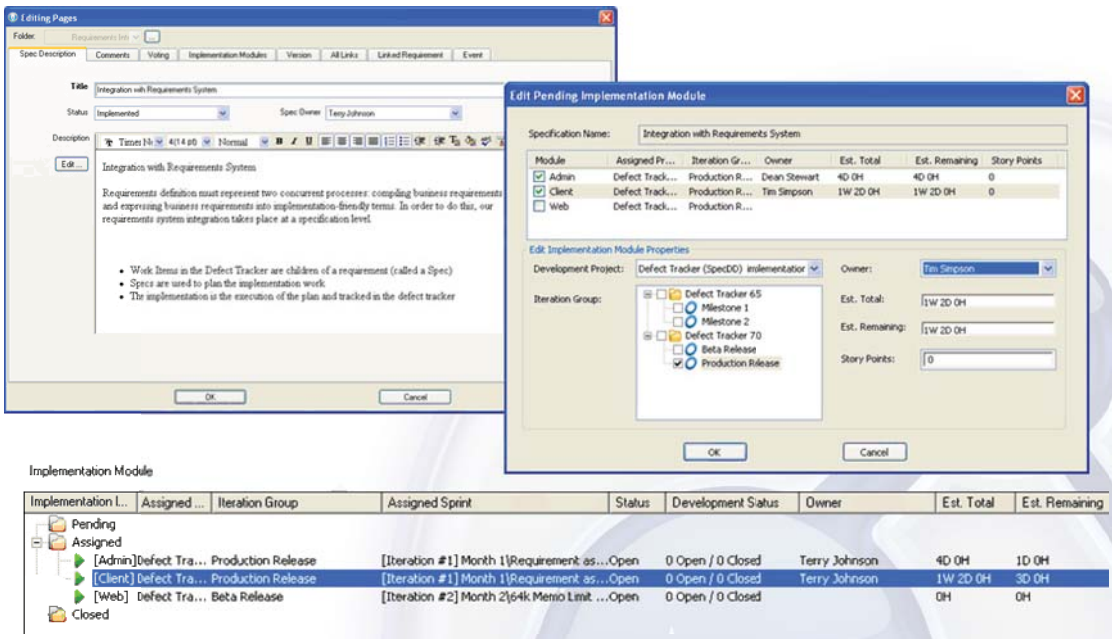
Unlike other ALM tools, DevSuite strives to quantify requirements and product design as specifications. Specifications are the units which link with requirements to planning, implementation, and testing. At each iteration or phase, the four products, "designed product", "planned product", "implemented project", and "tested product" are ever improving. Because each product always exists, teams can work independently, while being coordinated around a scalable and disciplined agile process.

DevSuite guarantees scalable agile development

DevSuite's unique approach to development management gives even the largest projects the ability to be agile. It removes traditional organizational silos, and unifies the development process across the entire enterprise. Additionally, it empowers designers while giving an objective way to measure designs. Requirements and design for a dynamic blueprint that is also quantified: users can view each specification as a goal for the delivery of each iteration. These features can be tracked with metrics, viewed in terms of estimated and actual, and measured independent of the implementation team.

Specifications allow for product design and planning to happen independent of implementation and testing. The entire implementation process benefits from this, and scaling is possible since all project resources and stakeholders are referencing the same set of design information. Combined with DevSuite's highly configurable workflow and built in support of standard methodologies, every project can enjoy the benefits scalable, agile development with best practices built-in!





TechExcel **DevSuite** Components

DevSuite can be effectively used to help an organization build their development culture around best practices. Best practices and development guidelines are enforced and mandated by every team member's activities. DevSuite's individual products can also be independently used as point solutions for requirements management, issue and project tracking, and QA test management.

TechExcel **KnowledgeWise**

The functional system to easily and efficiently collect, organize and refine informal ideas gathered from a wide variety of sources, such as internal ideas, feature requests, customer feedback, marketing requirements, and more into a centralized repository, as well as the underlying knowledge engine that supports the entire suite of products. Through this common set of knowledge access points, product teams - from executive management through to delivery management - has the visibility and access points appropriate for their environment and role.

TechExcel **DevSpec**

Good product ideas may or may not be implemented - these are strategic decisions made by the product management team by balancing priorities, resources, and schedules. The strategic process of compiling conceptual knowledge (ideas) into formalized feature specifications is managed by DevSpec. More than just the refinement of ideas this formal process results in a commitment by the product management team to what features they will deliver in a final product release.

TechExcel **DevPlan**

Manages the transformation of concepts into formal strategic plans. DevPlan offers an intuitive planning hierarchy to formalize scope and optimize resource usage, team-based planning and calendaring capabilities. These features enable complete control over all product development projects from design planning to implementation and enables increased team efficiency and collaboration.

TechExcel **DevTrack**

Building on the strategic vision, deliverables and milestones of DevPlan, DevTrack manages the implementation process. DevTrack's powerful and flexible framework coordinates workflow, notification, escalation, routing, version control, activity tracking, QA testing, multi-release management and much more. Once an area of development is ready for implementation, DevTrack ensures that teams execute their tasks within the context of DevPlan's project breakdown structure. Designs and specifications are easily viewable by the DevTrack user so that no work is performed without an approved concept driving it; managers can also quickly identify areas that require design and schedule brainstorming sessions, or presentations of completed designs, in order to refine their vision.

TechExcel **DevTest**

DevTest helps QA teams manage every aspect of their testing process, from team management to test planning and analysis. Teams can create and manage release and test cycles, plan and assign tasks, execute test coverage, and submit product defects, all in a single application. The product manages functional regression testing, performance testing, and usability testing; what's more, each test case template is linked to a specific DevPlan feature so the test case owner has direct visibility to all feature-related knowledge.

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