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A Unified ALM Platform for Agile and Traditional Development

The challenge facing today's development organizations is not if they should adopt agile processes but if they should keep the traditional processes while introducing agile best practices. Many organizations have taken the approach of providing agile tools to manage agile processes, while using agile best practices to replace the traditional waterfall and iterative methods. TechExcel ALM solution is designed with the fundamental belief that a hybrid of multiple methodologies is the future of Agile development. The best development processes are those which are tailored to suit company needs, and often contain a blend of Agile functions from different Agile methods as well as the most beneficial development management principles from traditional methods.

"To truly optimize management and development processes, teams need to implement different methodologies that are tailored to the projects' needs. For instance, contract based projects with closed requirements should be managed with a waterfall process, while projects with open and evolving requirements should be managed with agile methods" said Tieren Zhou, CEO and Founder of TechExcel. "In addition, more and more organizations are taking a hybrid approach – mixing Agile and traditional methodologies – to achieve their goals and increase their success."

According to a leading analyst firm's survey carried out at the end of 2009, just over a third of the development teams surveyed do not use any development method. Out of those development teams that are using defined development methods, Agile development represents the most used at 30%, with iterative development being the second most popular method in use at 20%. For those development teams that are using Agile development practices, nearly 40% are mixing practices from multiple Agile methodologies, while another 35% of Agile development teams mix Agile development with traditional development practices. The number of development teams using a single development method in pure form was the lowest, at only a quarter of the companies surveyed. TechExcel brings an integrated and modular approach to your ALM and Agile methodologies with its comprehensive suite of solutions – giving organizations the flexibility to design their development, management and testing approaches according to their unique needs and specifications. With its two flagship products DevTrack and DevTest, TechExcel offers development teams the market leading quality and development solutions. TechExcel ALM includes:

DevSuite – Complete Application Lifecycle Management

DevSuite is a complete ALM software solution covering requirements management, project planning, implementation tracking, and QA testing. It provides a single unified platform for both agile and traditional development, and the industry's most comprehensive requirement traceability from concept through specification, planning, implementation, testing, and release.

Agile Studio – The Platform for Balanced Agile Development

A better way to manage Agile development, TechExcel's Agile Studio combines DevPlan and DevTrack with out-of-the box Agile methodology templates for Scrum, XP, Feature-Driven, and Test Driven development. The result is a flexible platform that allows you to mix elements from multiple methods, including traditional development, to achieve the right balance for your team.

DevTest Studio – Complete Quality Management

DevTest Studio combines DevTest's award winning QA test management, DevTrack's market-leading defect tracking, and TestLink's integration with automation tools, to provide a powerful integrated quality management solution. From test case creation, planning and execution

through defect submission and resolution, DevTest Studio manages the complete quality lifecycle.

DevSpec – Requirements Management

DevSpec allows teams to easily collaborate using Wiki-based requirements, specifications, and Agile stories. Whether you adopt a simple Agile process or take full advantage of DevSpec's powerful workflow engine and expanded data structure, you will quickly achieve full requirements traceability throughout the development lifecycle. DevPlan – Development Project Planning. A better alternative to MS Project, DevPlan provides robust development project planning and resource management. By dynamically linking your project's timeline to DevTrack's workflow-enabled task tracking, you achieve real-time visibility into the current project status, risk areas, burn down reports, and expected delivery dates.

DevTrack – Implementation and Defect Tracking

DevTrack comprehensively tracks and manages all product defects, change requests, and all other development issues. DevTrack facilitates collaboration between different users, teams, and even customers. DevTrack also provides workflow and process automation, robust searching and reporting, and comprehensive point-and-click customization.

DevTest – QA Test Management

From test case creation, planning and execution through defect submission and resolution, DevTest tracks and manages the complete quality lifecycle. Whether your organization is using manual testing alone or automating your testing, DevTest presents you with all test results in a consolidated dashboard view as well as presentation-quality custom reports.



Tieren Zhou

TechExcel has more than 1,500 customers around the world representing just about every industry, including game developers, tractor manufacturers, healthcare organizations, defense agencies and contractors, financial services organizations, and real estate companies.

DevSuite 8.2, TechExcel's newest release, takes ease of use to the next level. It includes improved GUI features and additional functionality, which empower customers to define requirements, integrate with agile and waterfall tools, and to build their process to their needs.

"TechExcel's mission is to provide our customers with the tools to support how they want to work," said Zhou. "At the end of the day, it really is about improving our software and tool set, so that our customers can realize success without being locked into a 'one approach' process. With the ever evolving needs and unforeseeable process additions and changes – our software is designed to complement these changes, not hinder them."

The multiple open frameworks of each product within the TechExcel DevSuite make certain that best processes and methods are used during each phase of development, while ensuring a seamless knowledge transfer throughout the process - from ideas, to strategy, planning, implementation, validation, and delivery. TechExcel DevSuite empowers today's globally distributed development organizations to work efficiently and effectively throughout the Management and Development phases of a project, achieving a powerful knowledge-centric approach to Application Lifecycle Management – regardless of the traditional or Agile methods taken to get there.

