

How Easy!Flow Helps Your Agile Development

1. *Flexibility to customize an Agile development process, which helps you enforcing the best practices.*

Easy!Flow offers an out-of-the-box Agile development process, which allows you to kick off your project immediately. In the meantime, it provides you the flexibility to customize and fine tune your process whenever you feel necessary. Moreover, Easy!Flow can handle multiple projects (with one methodology, or multiple methodologies) so you gain additional benefit such as being able to reassign people freely as a project load increases or decreases without worrying retraining (to use another tool) people.

2. *Project planning, monitoring and management.*

Whether Agile or not, it is always essential to not only be able to plan for a project but more importantly to be able to monitor a project progress in real-time so immediate (corrective) actions can be taken.

Easy!Flow allows you to create, delete and update tasks of a project, define dependency of tasks and parent-child relationship among tasks. The percentage completion of each task provides an up-to-date project status for everyone. Tasks can be associated with a ticket allowing you to "dig" deeper into the task (ticket) for things such as status (under development, under review, resolved, under testing, etc.), hours still needed, detail descriptions of the ticket, etc.

3. *Time management feature.*

In Agile, an iteration is relatively short in terms of time period. As such, effective time management is essential to the success (or failure) of an Agile project. Rather than asking team members to submit estimations, progress, and actual efforts to another time management tool, the most effective and accurate way of time reporting is when the person is right on the issue. For instance, if a developer has just finished working on an assignment, it is ideal he can just enter the effort he has spent right at the spot rather than waiting until he has a chance to log the time effort to another system.

Easy!Flow not only offers the said ideal time reporting mechanism, but also allows a manager to run reports base on various criteria such as deadlines, per iteration, per member and per project so you can easily identify problematic tasks and quickly find people who may have "slack" to help out.

4. *Empower efficient and effective individuals (business analysts, developers, managers, etc.) of the team.*

Agile success depends a lot on individual team member's productivity. For example, a status query may seem routine, but if an individual performs, say average, five times a day, and there are 20 members in the team then it's performed 100 times a day. Imagine, if a tool can save 30 seconds per query, that's 50 minutes per day saving.

Easy!Flow, by its design, builds in many productivity enhancement tools such as Personal Shortcuts and Common (team level) Shortcuts, which supports one-click query & report generation. Additionally, almost all the features and functions Easy!Flow supports are accessible with one or two clicks.

Likewise, Easy!Flow's SCM Client provides an easy and intuitive user interface so team members do not have to learn and worry about the details of source code and version controls.

5. *Team collaboration is equally important.*

While individuals are working as efficiently and effectively as they can, still they need to be well informed of any relevant activities performed by their peers, and the up-to-date project status.

Easy!Flow provides flexible e-mail delivery scheme so you can determine who will receive e-mail notification when your assignment status changes.

Even for the Agile process, peer reviews for certain critical requirements, application modules, and software components will pay off. Easy!Flow's review module sends review requests automatically to the reviewers, provides on-line diff'ed files and up-to-date comments for all reviewers (so reviewers don't waste time making duplicating comments), and, once each review is done, automatically informs the author and moderator. Peer review definitely has its value. Question is whether the realized value justifies the effort. Easy!Flow review minimizes the effort so you can realize more value.

The Time Management feature mentioned above, and the Punchlist feature -- which allows members to see and authorized persons to determine which modification is accepted in what iteration -- are also useful for facilitating team collaboration.

6. *Feature based development support.*

Normally, an iteration will consist of a few prioritized features. As such, a tool will become handy if it can not only keep track of individual changes but also track all changes related to a feature.

Easy!Flow's optional parent-child relationship structure offers this capability. Moreover, its feature management, dependency tree report and dependency graph provide quick views of each change request (ticket) with regard to its parent feature or an iteration.

7. *Best practices guided yet easy to use version control tool.*

Team members shall not be burdened to learn the ins and outs of a tool in order to follow the best-practices process a team has set forth. Rather, the tool shall guide them throughout this process.

Easy!Flow's triggers are designed to make sure your best practices are enforced through the process you have defined (customized). For example, any changes made will only be incorporated in a release of an iteration if these changes are associated with an approved change request ticket. Moreover, if a review is required and it is not completed, then the changes won't be incorporated either.

8. *Easy to use conflict resolution tool.*

Conflict occurs when two or more developers changed the same line(s) of a file independently. When it happens, a tool shall provide a simple and less error prone means for a developer to quickly see the conflict and resolve it.

Easy!Flow's visual conflict resolution handler provides 4-way views (of the file in conflict) to the developer so s/he is able to make informed decisions as how the conflict should be resolved.