



# How To Estimate Manage and Track Performance on Modern Federal Software Development Programs

GALORATH



# AGENDA FOR TODAY

- **Cost and Schedule Overruns**
- **Defense Science Board Recommendations**
- **#NoEstimates**
- **Agile Estimation**
- **Significant Reasons for Software Cost Growth**
- **Managing Modern Software Development Programs**
- **Key Questions to Assess the Quality of the Agile Progress**
- **Earned Value**
- **Conclusions.**

# COST AND SCHEDULE OVERRUNS

Many studies attempting to quantify the cost of software failures.

Generally agree that the number is around \$50 to \$80 billion annually.

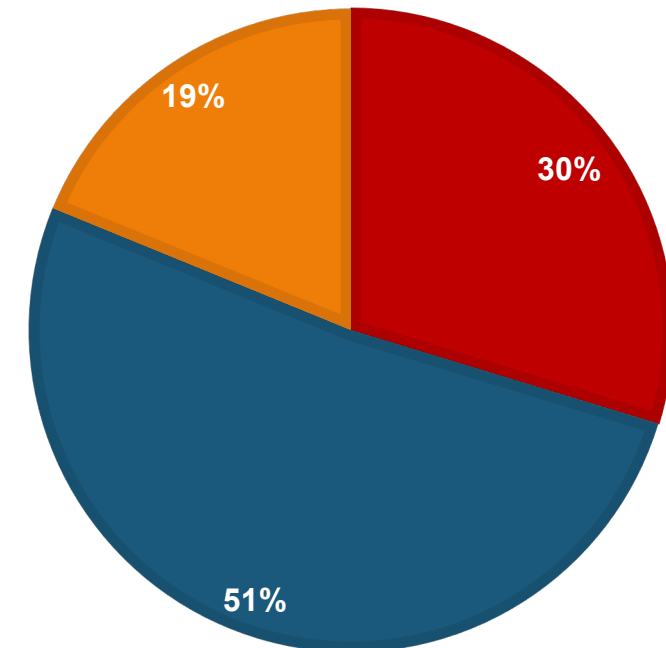
The Standish Chaos Report, which is probably the most well-known of these studies, defines success as projects delivered within budget, on schedule, and with expected functionality.

The 2018 Chaos report shows:

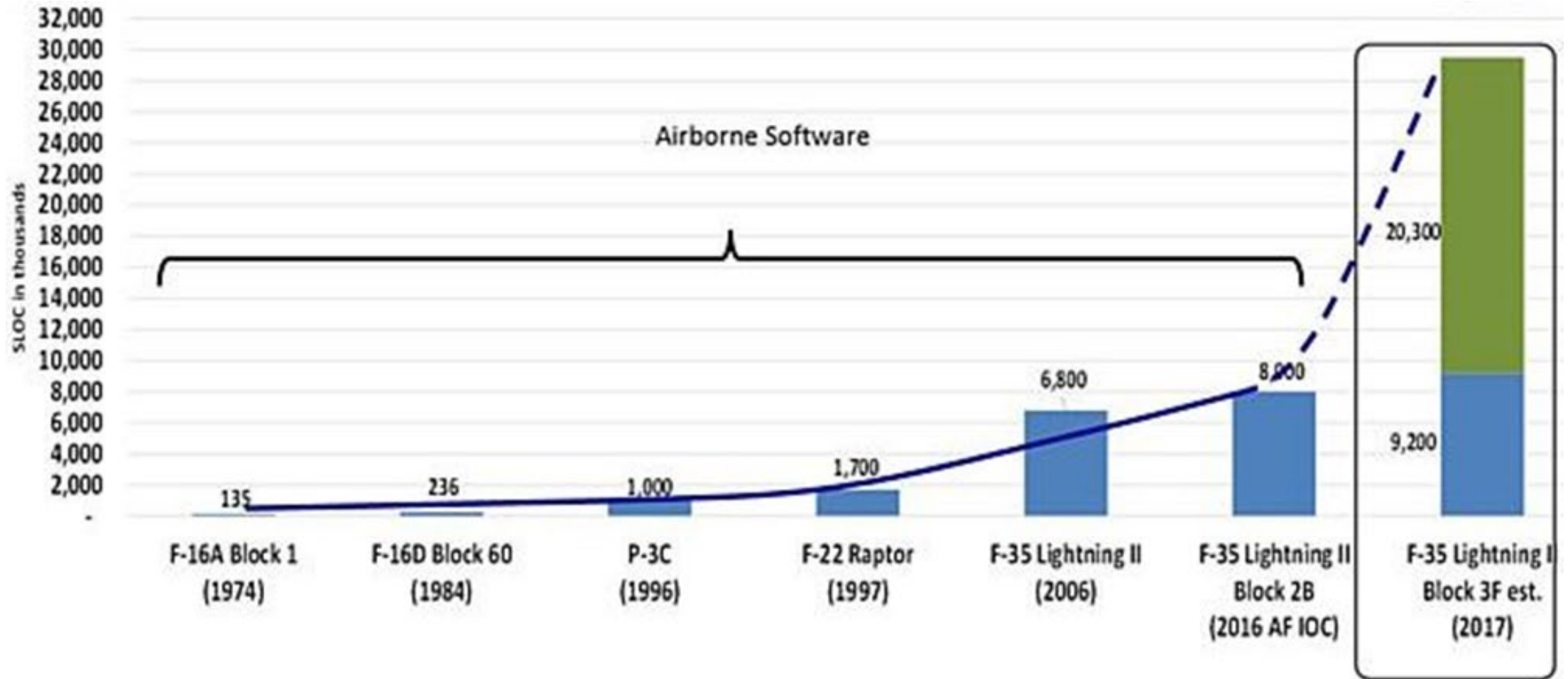
- Successful Projects: 30%
- Challenged Projects: 52%
- Failed Projects: 19%

## 2018 STANDISH "CHAOS" SUMMARY

■ Successful Projects ■ Challenged Projects ■ Failed Projects



# SOFTWARE GROWTH IN AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS



# DEFENSE SCIENCE BOARD\*

## Recommendation

**Recommendation 1:** Implement the “Software Factory”

**Recommendation 2:** Adopt continuous iterative development best practices (continuing through sustainment) for software.

**Recommendation 3:** Implement: Multiple vendors to begin work with down select; Service cost estimators should modernize cost/schedule estimation processes; Project manager should build program-appropriate frameworks for status metrics; examples include: sprint burndown, epic and release burndown, velocity trending, control chart, line of balance and cumulative flow diagrams.

**Recommendation 4:** Current and legacy programs should plan transition to a software factory and continuous iterative development

**Recommendation 5: Develop a modern software development expertise**

**Recommendation 6:** Software is Immortal

**Recommendation 7:** Implement Independent Validation and Verification (IV&V)

# AGILE ESTIMATES

Are they necessary?

## #NOESTIMATES

- Estimates are difficult to produce
- Provide little to no value
- Estimation is overhead and should be minimized

## #ESTIMATES

- Organizations need to do budget planning
- Estimates are needed to make informed decisions
- Managers need estimates for accountability to shareholders



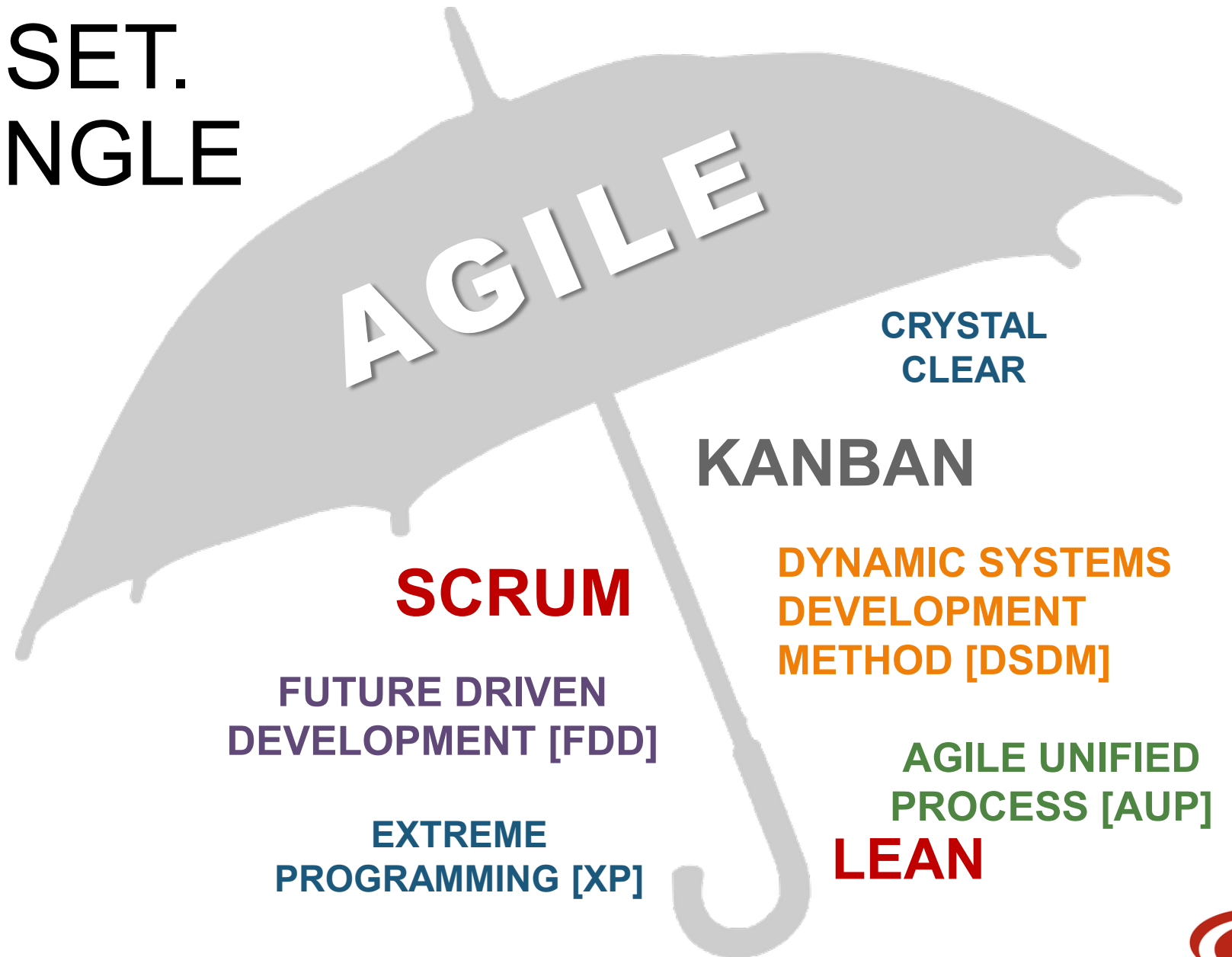
## UNDERLYING TRUTHS

Software estimation is challenging, Agile developers see estimates as committing them to a schedule and therefore they are antithetical to the Agile Manifesto.

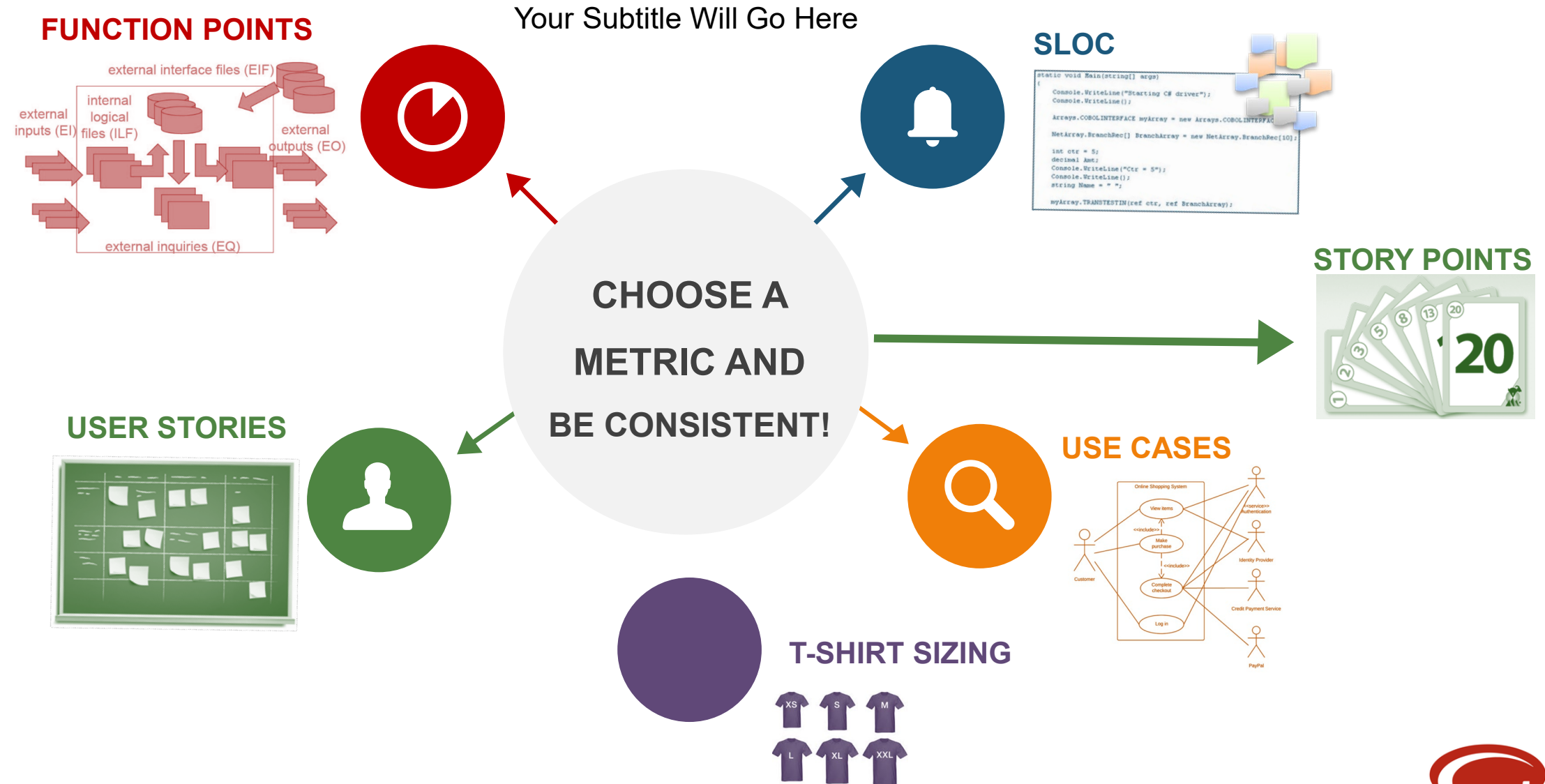
Software estimates drive decision making - they are not just for the developers

Total ownership cost should be considered for the immortal systems and as a result, more emphasis and research should be and is being applied to the area of software maintenance.

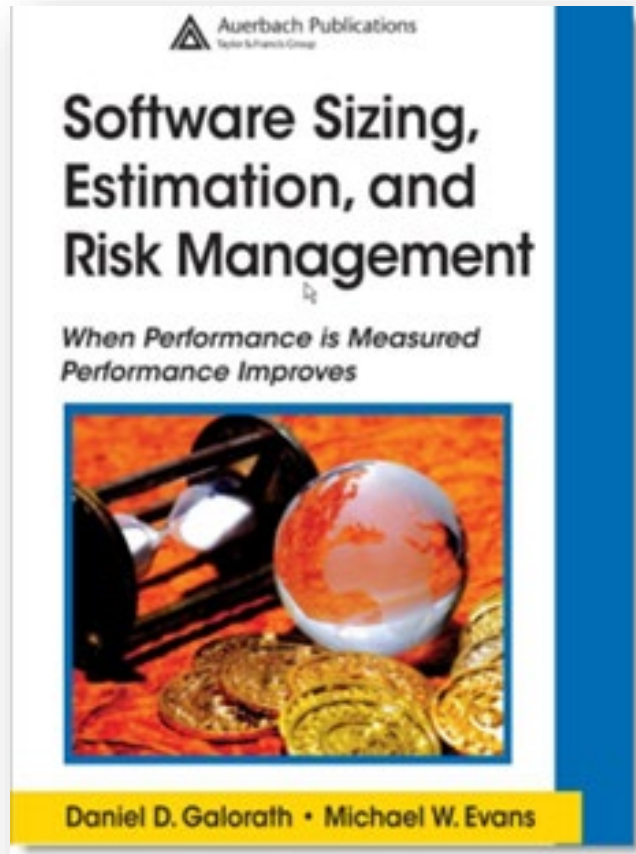
# AGILE MINDSET. NOT ONE SINGLE METHOD



# SIZE CONTINUES TO BE MAIN DRIVER





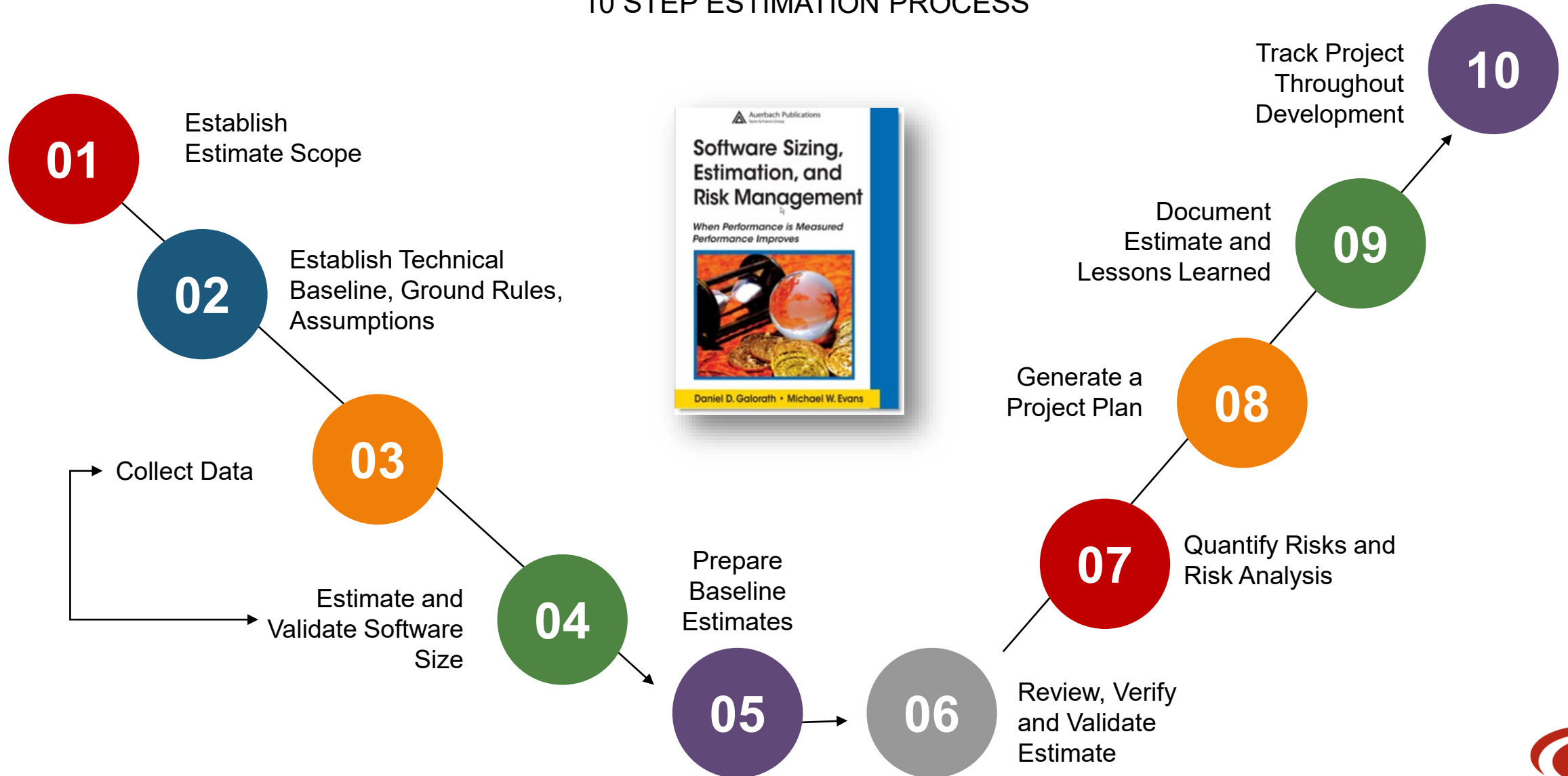


**“When performance is measured  
performance improves”**

Estimation processes are independent of tools

# DRIVING THE STATE OF THE ART

## 10 STEP ESTIMATION PROCESS



# Parametric Estimation for Agile Projects

Features



Project Characteristics

**Description**

**Platform**

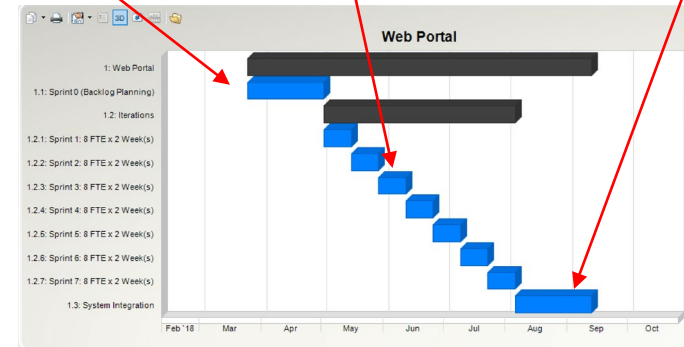
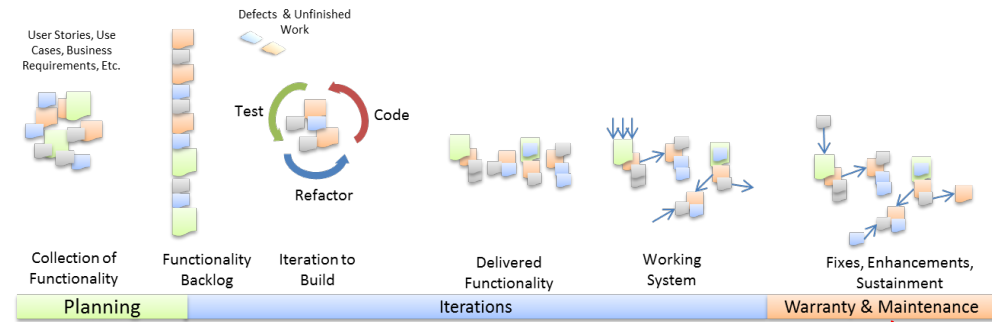
**Application**

**Acquisition Method**

**Agile Framework**

**Development Standard**

Team Dynamics



| Estimate               |            |
|------------------------|------------|
| TE x 4 Weeks           |            |
| Team A                 |            |
| Sprint Number          | 1          |
| Sprint Duration Months | 0.92       |
| Sprint Effort Months   | 6.46       |
| Sprint Effort Hours    | 981        |
| Sprint Labor Cost      | 134,290    |
| Sprint Velocity (UFP)  | 103.00     |
| Team Size              | 7.00       |
| Start Date             | 12/27/2018 |
| End Date               | 1/24/2019  |

# SEER AGILE PLANNER

FOR AGILE PROJECTS

## DEVELOPMENT TEAM SIZE

Optimal Size can be calculated

Everyone available on day 1?

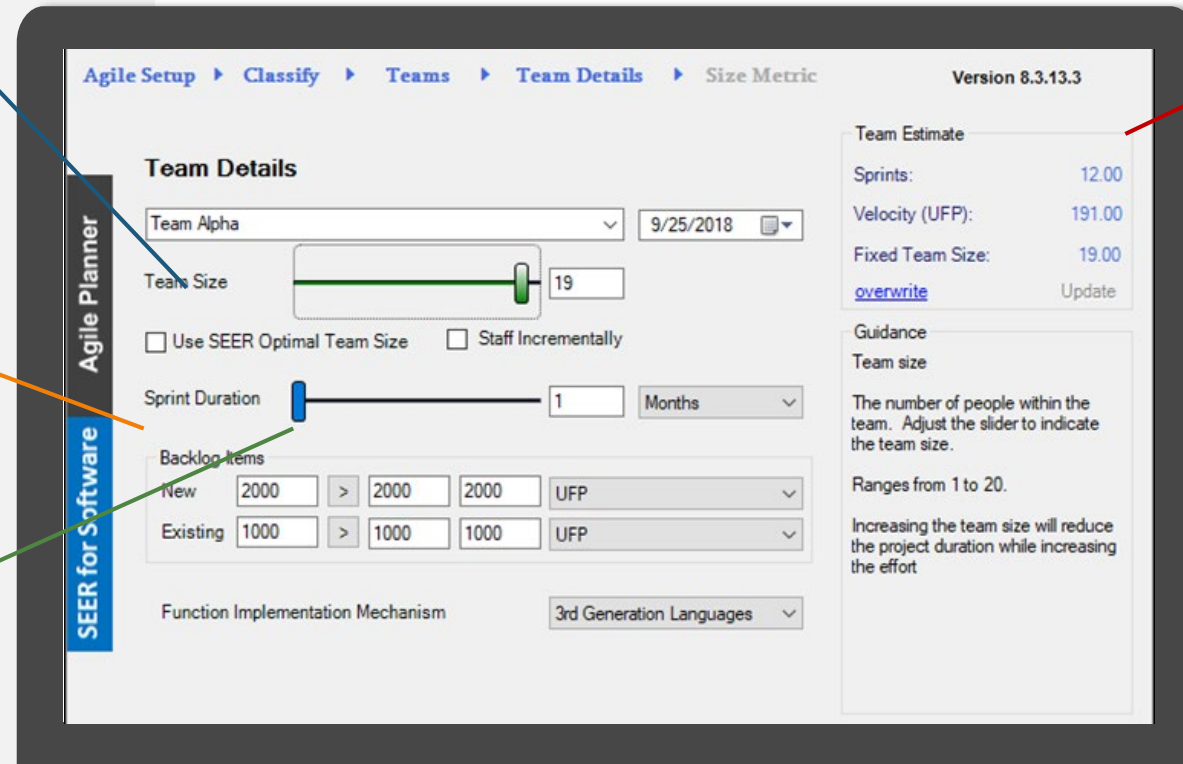
## BACKLOG SIZE

What is the team tasked to complete?

## SPRINT DURATION

Timebox duration for an iteration

4 and 2 weeks are the most common



## TEAM VELOCITY

What is "doable" in a SPRINT

If not known, it can be computed (discussed in slide 20)

# ESTIMATING METHODOLOGIES

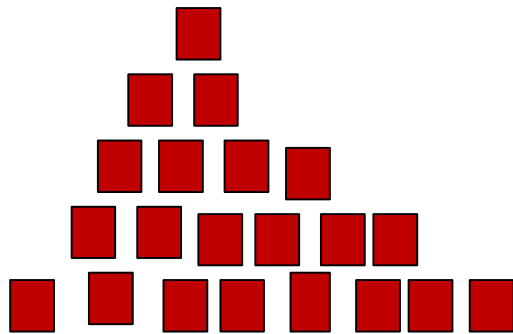
**Methodology 1: Many Agile programs are fixed price, it is often just a matter of labor rates times quantity**

**Methodology 2: Simple Build-up approach** based on averages can be defined as: Sprint Team Size (SS) x Sprint length (Sp time) x Number of Sprints (# Sprints)

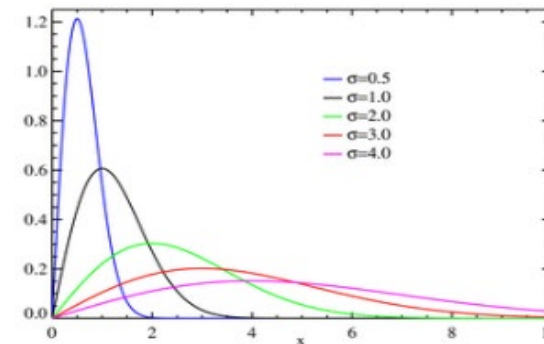
**Methodology 3: Structured approach** based on established “velocity” – most often used internally by the developer since detailed/sensitive data are available to them

**Methodology 4: Automated Models approach** based on a size metric – which may be difficult to quantify

- There is a fixed relationship between size and effort, e.g.  $(\text{Effort}^{**n}) * \text{Time} = \text{Size} / \text{Technology}$
- Results are then modified by current trends and analyses
- Total effort can be distributed by a mathematical model; e.g. Weibull, Rayleigh



The Sprint work projections often follow the Weibull or Rayleigh distribution



**Methodology 5: Factor/Complexity approach** based on data generated in early *iterations*

# SOFTWARE COST GROWTH

Significant Reasons for Software Cost Growth

01

Scope Creep  
Requirements Growth

05

Failure to Declare, Track  
& Reduce Risk & Uncertainties

02

Poor Input to Estimate

06

Lack of Internal Peer Review

09

Failure in the  
Estimation  
Tool/Process

03

Failure to Clearly Define  
the Initial Scope

07

Lack of Estimation Experience

10

Estimating to a  
Target Assumption

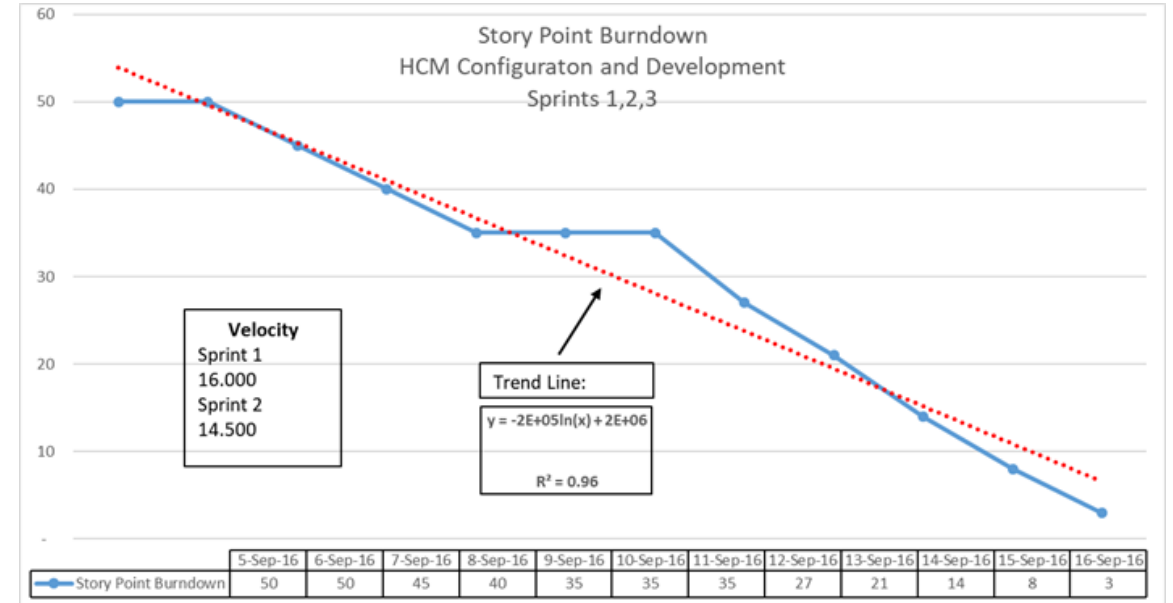
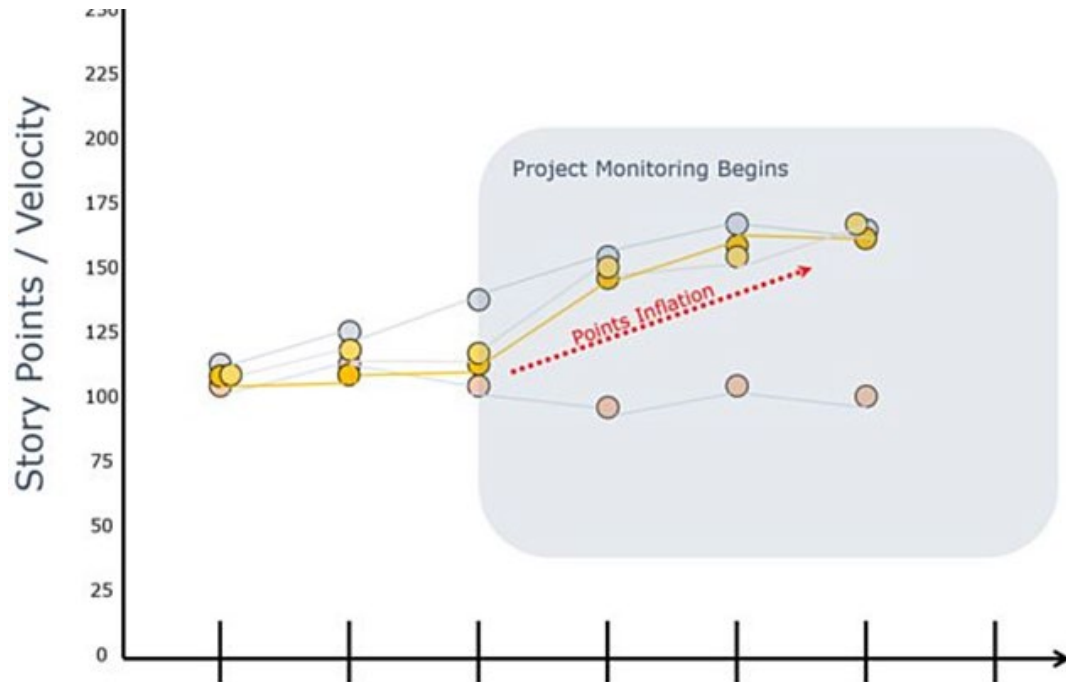
04

Unrealistic Expectations  
and Assumption

08

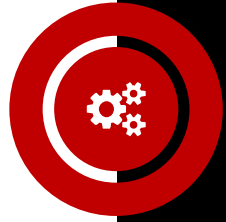
Failure to Consider  
Environmental Factors

# MANAGING MODERN SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS



Measure the Right Thing – Backlog – Velocity – Burndown Charts  
Manage Expectations / Set Realistic Time Frames  
Align the Work Streams  
Seek Objectivity

**Size Metrics:** “Are the user stories consistent and do they follow the basic structure of ‘As a \_\_, I Want, So That...’?”



**Agile Methods:** “Is the development process using the proper Agile method for work to be performed?”



**Agile Integrity:** “Is the program deviating from the Twelve Agile Principles?”



**Agile Delivery:** The acquisition manager needs to recognize that Agile is a development mindset (not a methodology) created by practitioners trying to resolve the iron triangle of scope, schedule, and resources



## KEY QUESTIONS TO ASSESS THE QUALITY OF THE AGILE PROGRESS



**Velocity:** “Is velocity based on a historical baseline of the program?”



**Governance:** “Is there an experienced Scrum Master?”



**Expectations:** “Is the team promising faster schedule and cheaper cost?” Research consistently shows



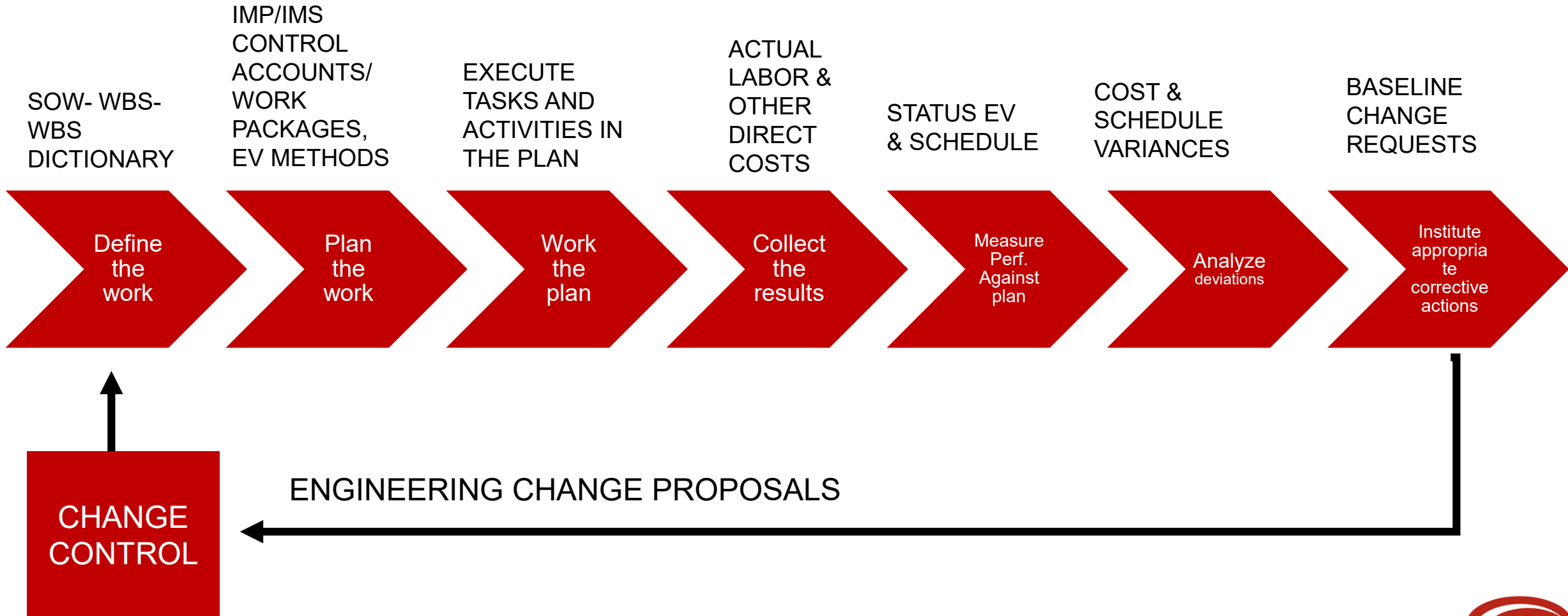
**Agile Values:** “Are the Agile values being embraced or is it simply the method du-jour?”





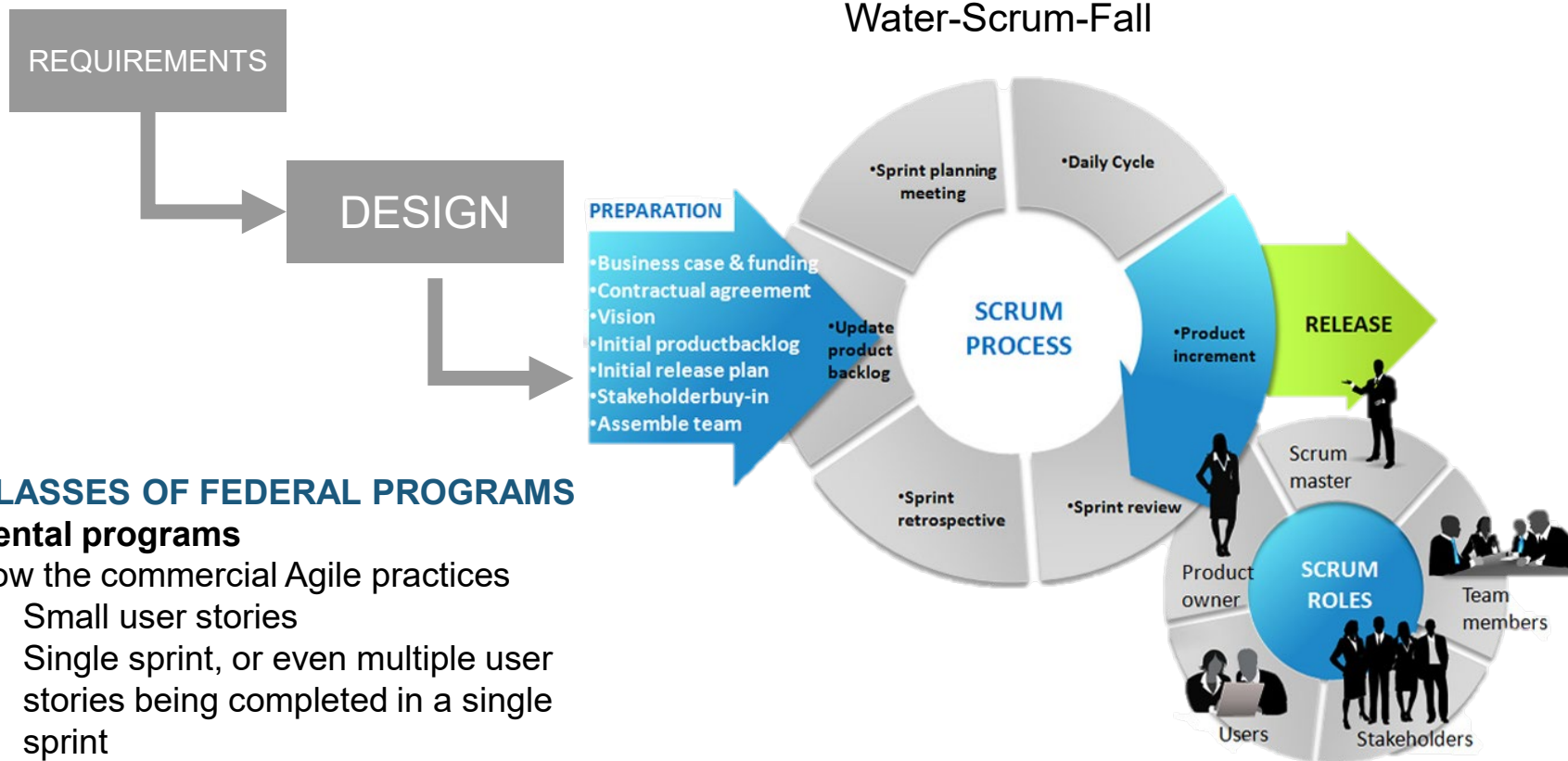
# EARNED VALUE MANAGEMENT PROCESS

Consider Tailored or EVM Lite Options



# TYPICAL HYBRID AGILE DEVELOPMENT

Water-Scrum-Fall



**SCRUM ROLES ARE CRITICAL**

## TWO CLASSES OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS

### Incremental programs

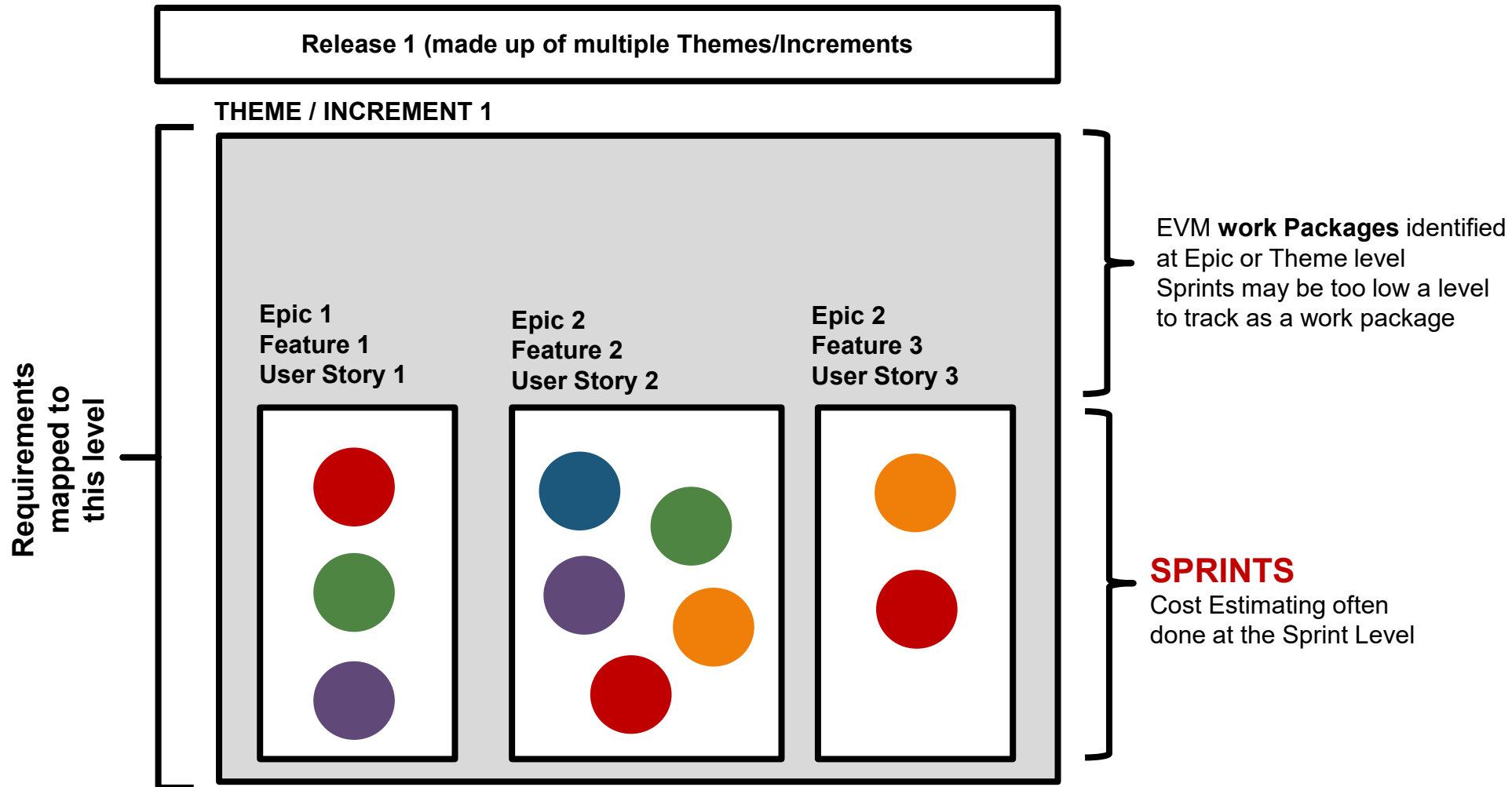
- Follow the commercial Agile practices
  - Small user stories
  - Single sprint, or even multiple user stories being completed in a single sprint
- Generally not applying a full EVM process

### Transformational programs

- Creating completely new capabilities
- “Hybrid-Agile” approach applied
  - Longer sprints
  - Larger conceptual stories/features
  - Full EVM process.

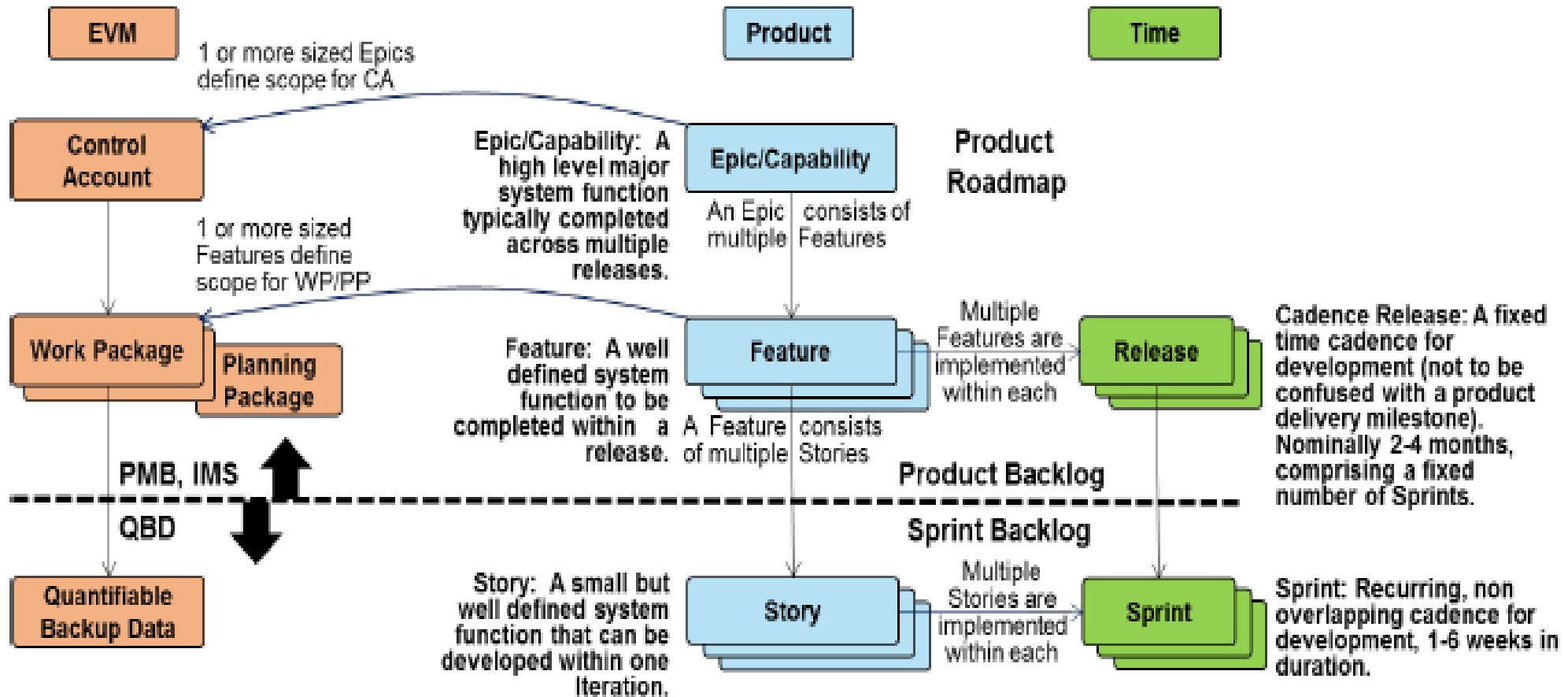
Testing and Sustainment (sometimes in the Sprint sometimes a separate activity)

# AGILE/EVM BUILDING BLOCKS\*



\* These "building blocks" are program specific and may be called by different names

# AGILE- EVM RELATIONSHIPS



# WHERE DOES EVM FIT IN?

**As long as there is a plan and product(s) EVM can be applied**

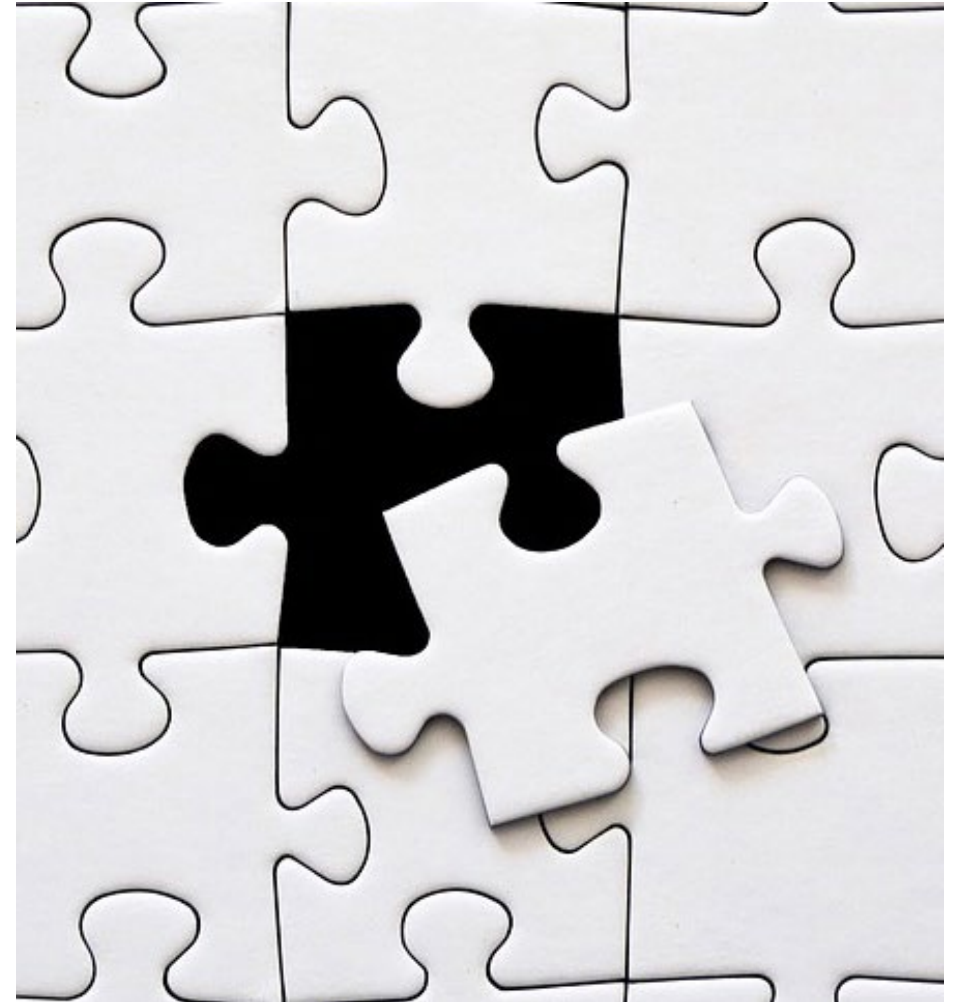
**The product backlog defines the product, and sprints are used to time phase the work.**

**Status of each Sprint is rolled up to a level, e.g. Control**

## **Accounts (CA)**

- Below the EPIC is the Feature at the Work Package (WP) level, which breaks the EPIC into functional packages
- Features are decomposed into Stories and Story points
- Sprints are statused by, in this case, Stories and Story Points, which are maintained in an Agile Program Management Tool
- A feature may require multiple Sprints to complete
- No credit given for a Story not completed in a Sprint (backlogged)

**As Features are completed the percent complete is rolled up to the EPIC level**



# CONCLUSIONS



The adoption of Agile practices in federal programs is growing and changing the way we approach software



Modern federal software development programs are evolving into incremental development practices and some of them are starting to adopt the Agile development framework.



Some of these programs are fully adopting the framework while some others are “executing Hybrid Agile. Regardless of level of Agile adoption, these federal programs can benefit from using a formal estimation and Earned Value Management (EVM) processes.



Robust cost baselines become the baseline from which performance is measured



Earned Value Management can be applied to Agile



Federal programs need to adopt continuous iterative development best practices for software

# FOR MORE INFORMATION

REACH OUT



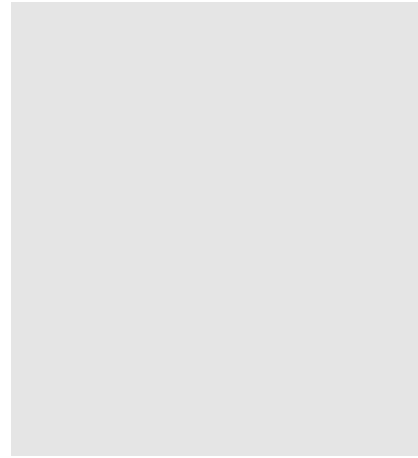
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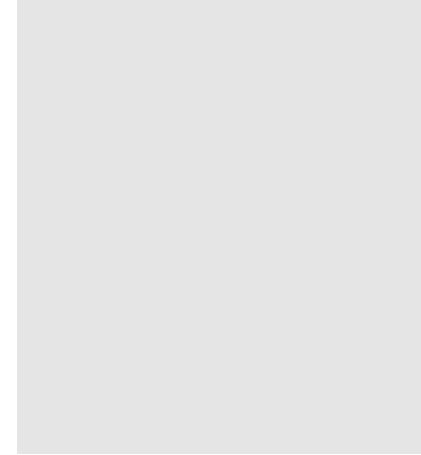
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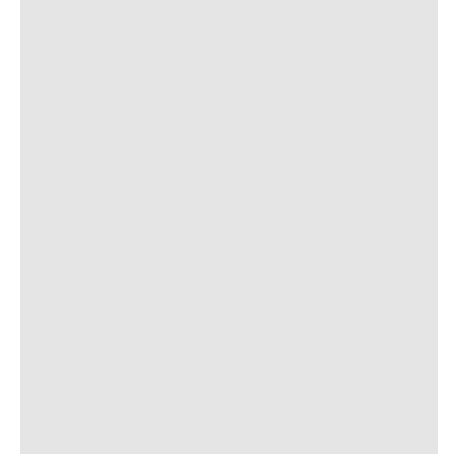
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A vibrant, multi-colored nebula with stars, framed by a white border. The nebula features a mix of red, purple, blue, and yellow hues, with numerous bright stars scattered throughout. The text "GALORATH.COM" is prominently displayed in the center of the frame.

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