

## What is the State of Agile Worldwide?

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VersionOne's Annual State of Agile™ report is always an interesting read. For the 2017 edition, Analysis.Net Research collected thousands of survey responses from July to December 2016 and prepared the report on behalf of VersionOne, an Agile tool vendor. Only 20% of respondents were VersionOne customers and half worked outside North America. 61% worked for organizations with 1,000 or more people (only 23% in the software industry); 60% have used Agile for more than two years; and 81% follow Scrum, Kanban, or some hybrid of the two. For many survey questions, respondents could select multiple answers.

According to the report, 98% percent of respondents have had success with Agile! They identified ability to manage changing priorities, project visibility, higher team productivity, and accelerated delivery as the top benefits. In last year's report, the top four benefits were similar: managing changing priorities, improved team productivity, better project visibility, and higher team morale and motivation. Here are some other takeaways from this year's report:

1. Business value was cited as the second most popular measure of Agile success, rising from fourth place in the previous report. Other popular measures included on-time delivery, customer satisfaction, and product quality.
2. Interestingly, 82% of respondents said they had no current Agile initiatives, were just piloting it, or were still maturing in their use of Agile. In other words, only 18% thought they had a high level of competency. This is up from 17% last year. The top challenges preventing more widespread use of Agile were organizational culture at odds with Agile, lack of experience with Agile methods, lack of management support, and a general resistance to change.
3. The top five recommendations to successfully scale Agile were internal Agile coaches, executive sponsorship, consistent process and practices, using a common management tool across teams, and Agile consultants or trainers.
4. With 28% of the responses, Scaled Agile Framework (SAFe) overtook Scrum and Scrum of Scrums as the most popular scaling approach.
5. 63% of respondents use an Agile project management tool. The most popular tools were Atlassian JIRA (53%), Microsoft Excel (46%), Microsoft Team Foundation Server (22%), Microsoft Project (20%), and VersionOne (20%). And while VersionOne dropped from 28% last year, 87% of those using it this year said they would recommend it to others versus 81% of current JIRA users that would do the same.
6. 71% of respondents said they currently have a DevOps initiative in their organization or are planning one in the next 12 months. DevOps blurs the line between development and operation with continuous integration, continuous deployment, automated testing, environment monitoring, and other tools and techniques that enable a team to create and deploy new features to customers faster.

Reviewing the findings of this report over the last few years yields useful insights. First, almost every organization (not just software companies) realizes benefits by adopting Agile. Second, those benefits are most frequently greater business value, on-time deliveries, higher customer satisfaction, and better product quality. Finally, Agile, DevOps, and management tool adoption is still evolving, especially the expansion of Agile to two or more projects within an organization.

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range of information technology (IT) services to multiple Government agencies. Our focus on customer satisfaction and performance has established long-term relationships with the United States Air Force (USAF), Food & Drug Administration (FDA), the General Services Administration (GSA), the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), and the States of Maryland and Pennsylvania. During the last few decades, our executive leadership team has built Dynanet's dedicated workforce from 20 employees to over 125 key personnel. Dynanet is committed to employee engagement and maintains a retention rate of over 90%. Our managers are PMP certified and our employees maintain many sought after professional certifications, such as Certified Scrum Masters and ITIL certified. Additionally, Dynanet has been appraised at CMMI Maturity Level 3 (ML3) and our quality management processes have been audited and found to be in compliance with the ISO 9001:2015 quality standards. Further, our company has a Top-Secret facility clearance. For more information, please visit Dynanet's website at [www.dynanetcorp.com](http://www.dynanetcorp.com).

*About the Author: Mike McEwen (PMP, CSM) is a servant-leader who forms amazing teams and helps them deliver award-winning technology solutions to commercial, non-profit, and government customers.*