



Getting Agile to work in the finance sector

Agility with control

Agile software delivery is becoming common practice in many organisations especially where customer demands are changing and speed to react is critical.

An Agile approach enables an organisation to focus on delivering solutions in small incremental chunks selected for the value each provides to the business. No longer are your requirements fixed at the outset of a project – they can flex to embrace change that is inevitable.

However, in an industry increasingly driven by regulation and control, is it practical to introduce an Agile approach into financial organisations?

Our experience is that if you get the balance right between control and flexibility you can achieve substantial gains by introducing Agile approaches. Doing this in environments with strong regulation needs a delivery team that understands where requirements need to be fixed and where they can be flexed.

However tight the process, there's always room for Agility. In fact, we have found that having some rigid requirements can help to provide a central framework around which the more flexible elements can be built. The regulatory and compliance requirements are easy to prioritise as "must haves". Auditing requirements can even be considered as non-functional, and can be dealt with in a similar way to performance and availability requirements - essential to agree and specify in any technology development, Agile or otherwise.

How users access information, interpret Management Information, navigate through reporting and analytical screens for example, are all candidates for an Agile development approach. Key Agile principles such as time-boxing, not compromising quality, lean documentation and frequent exposure of the solution to the business, all help to expedite delivery, only deliver what is necessary, and overall, reduce the risk of project failure or overspend.



In an industry with an increased emphasis on regulation and an increasing number of new controls, Agile can provide the platform to both implement new rules quickly and enable your organisation to deliver new products and services to the market while others are slower to react using traditional approaches.

Talk to us about our experience of getting Agile working where regulation rules.

With our knowledge of regulatory, compliance and audit requirements in the finance sector, combined with our knowledge and experience of Agile approaches Wisereach can help you exploit the advantages of Agile in your organisation.

Agility in the Finance Sector

Comments on our work with Egg Banking



Working with Wisereach was a rather unique experience in the Consulting arena!

An ability to understand complex issues and deliver long term solutions is often the reason for hiring external thinking.

During 2006, the Egg Business were experiencing issues within the Programme arena. Egg prides itself on flexibility and speed of delivery coupled with the ability to manage a large volume of change. Within a heavily regulated arena, the governance factors can often begin to cause stress between control and outright delivery.

Wisereach were tasked with establishing a programme support office that actually supported project managers blend the need for fast, high quality delivery within a governed environment.

Working with Egg, they took the time to understand the real challenge and then delivered a functioning, flexible model that could be changed without the standard consulting request for "more time, more money".

The most important element of any consulting partnership is knowing when it's time to hand over the deliverables and move onto new challenges. Wisereach achieve their goals and end assignments when their client is ready to take the reins. No hard sell, no low-value project-creep.

A truly unique Consulting firm.

Robin Young, CIO Citi UK GCG and Egg