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THE OFFICIAL FLIGHT DECK NEWSLETTER







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www.theflightdeck.ca

About The Flight Deck

Inspired by the open, collaborative and creatively designed working spaces, the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) has established "The Flight Deck" Innovation Lab at the Communitech Hub in Kitchener to push the limits of research and development. Since November of 2016, The Flight Deck has helped the RCAF take their status to the next level by providing them with the tools and technology they need to turn excellent ideas into reality. Get in touch if you believe you have a disruptive idea with potential for growth and success.



Aglie at The Flight Deck With Sefra Adatia

What is Agile Development?

Agile is a process in which its methodologies are based on iterative development and incremental progress. The process is more circular, compared to the traditional waterfall linear method. Requirements and solutions can change throughout the duration of the project and agile accommodates this through the use of sprints and sprint planning. A sprint is a term used in agile to describe a short period of time dedicated to delivering a small project that accomplishes a set of requirements based on the scope of the overarching goal. Given that agile sprints are generally 2 weeks long, requirements can be changed quickly with little delay and allow for repurposing of existing progress. Testing- another crucial part of agile is very different between waterfall and agile. The testing phase traditionally follows the build phase in waterfall, however in agile, testing is done throughout the development and is adjusted along with any new requirements. This leaves very little room for any possible disconnect between end-users and developers.

Applications at The Flight Deck

Here at the flight deck we like to work in a fast-paced environment with the goal of creating a variety of solutions applicable across a wide range of uses. The concept of a minimum viable product (MVP) is integral in the success of our projects, and allows us to deliver the most essential features in the shortest time span and we can then iterate for the next version based off of the provided feedback. Given that we are an innovation lab, the sky's the limit and we leverage the ability to pivot our goals at a moment's notice if need be. Another particular tool we use is Scrum meetings, wherein the team meets everyday for a brief period to review the previous day's accomplishments and challenges and share the current progress for ongoing tasks and goals. This is especially useful in the case of "blockers", by meeting daily with the team, it keeps all members in the loop and able to jump in and assist to alleviate delays if need be. Ultimately, we use agile methodologies to ensure our end product is perfectly tailored to our end users and make the biggest impact possible.

What Agile Means to Me

To me, agile translates to flexibility in every aspect. To create an environment and workflow with the understanding that the goal is not to reach perfection but rather a functional piece of work in the most efficient way possible, is extremely effective in my opinion. Another element is the flexibility of the definition of agile itself, by that I mean there is no hard set way of how to run an agile team. The goal of agile is to be as efficient as possible, and if certain parts of the "traditional" agile aren't working, then simply eliminate them. Agile reduces miscommunications and delays between teams and clients, there is every opportunity to revisit and re-discuss the work to ensure the product matches the problem.

Coffee Break!

Some of The Flight Deck's Favourite Games, Jokes, and Riddles!

2 = 1?! What Went Wrong?



Mornings With Omar Atwa

7:30 am

I wake up at around 7:30, brush my teeth, hop in the shower, and get ready for a day at work. After making breakfast, and fueling my never-ending caffeine addiction, I hop on my computer. I start the workday by updating my backlog of things to do. Most of the time, I add or shuffle new items based on priority. After updating my backlog, I check my emails, slack messages, and calendar in case of any upcoming meetings or due dates. Once all the catchup/sync up is done, I start my work! Today, I'll be scoping out a project I've been assigned. Miro (www.miro.com) is a great way to scope projects, so that's what I'll use!

10:30 am

It's 10:30! I've got to attend our group scrum. Our scrum meeting is essentially a standup meeting we have daily to catch everyone up on the progress of our development projects. Today's standup lasts about 20 minutes.

10:50 am

Right after scrum, I remain on the call with the co-op development team. The reason we do this is to try to mimic the office environment. We're not necessarily speaking, but it's nice to see everyone's face while you're working.

11:30 am

I've finished scoping my project, and now need to prepare to run it by my lab director. I jot down some speaking notes and get ready.

Now is a good time to switch gears to another item on my backlog of work; I think I'm going to brainstorm some design ideas for the upcoming newsletter.

12:00 pm

Finally, I end off my morning with lunch! Today I'll be making pasta with tomato sauce. Lunch takes about 30min to make, then I enjoy the remaining time eating and watching some Netflix. Once the clock hits 1 pm, it's back to work for me



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