

Cerner Corporation achieves faster time to market with agile

Highlights

- Time to market reduced **by 75%**
- Development costs reduced **by 14%**
- Productivity increased **by 24%**
- Turnaround time for resolving critical defects reduced **by 50%**

Challenges: Reduce time to market

Prior to Digital.ai Agility, formerly VersionOne, it was taking Cerner's development team about 30 months — from concept to client adoption — to introduce major innovations. Cerner knew it had to accelerate its products' time to market to help clients navigate healthcare reform and stay competitive in a rapidly changing industry.

To achieve this, Cerner's developers needed more agility in their software development processes. The solution was the adoption of agile practices across the enterprise. Matt Anderson, Director, Cerner Technology Services and Cerner's leading agile champion, calls the company's approach "pragmatic agile." In other words, the enterprise focuses on ensuring that agile principles and values are followed and the teams decide the agile approach they will take.

Successful organizational change must simultaneously incorporate people, process, and tools. While Cerner had a great team who was committed to agile processes, they needed an enterprise agile application lifecycle management platform that would enable the people and processes to succeed. After reviewing several options, they selected Digital.ai Agility as their primary tooling partner.



VersionOne [now Digital.ai] is a great partner. The company continues to innovate to meet the needs of the agile marketplace. They are justifiably one of the top agile ALM vendors.

Matt Anderson, Director, Cerner Technology Services

Solutions: An agile-your-way platform for easy adoption

Cerner has more than 3,000 developers, with teams having different needs, different markets, and different preferences in the way they work. Scrum works best for most of their teams, while other teams prefer Kanban, XP, Lean, or other variations.

The company selected Digital.ai Agility because it had the flexibility to accommodate the various agile methodologies being implemented. In addition, they found the platform intuitive and easy to use. “People can focus on doing the real work of software development,” explains Anderson.

Benefits: Transition to agile yields significant results

For Cerner, success was about having more time to focus on adopting the agile framework rather than adopting a tool. Digital.ai Agility’s inherent ease of adoption enabled Cerner to quickly start seeing the benefits of agile – in this case, a 75% reduction in time to market. Other measurable improvements include:

In addition, by choosing Digital.ai Agility, Cerner development teams can estimate software delivery more accurately, allowing them to forecast and consistently meet their commitments to stakeholders.

Developers can identify problems earlier and make midstream adjustments very quickly. Teams can innovate and test prototypes because Digital.ai Agility is adaptable enough to support changes to the underlying process.

- Productivity increased by **24%**
- Development costs reduced by **14%**
- Quality improved by **6%** based on internal KPIs
- Turnaround time for resolving critical defects reduced by **50%**

Digital.ai Agility’s flexibility promotes a proactive approach to problem solving across the enterprise. Instead of reacting to issues, Cerner can develop solutions that prevent issues from arising. The flexibility also allows teams to try different things. If the experiment works, Cerner teams incorporate it as a part of their process. If the experiment doesn’t work, they just throw it out and try true spirit of retrospectives.

Improved reporting results

Another key benefit of Digital.ai Agility is the ease of creating roll-up reports with the ability to drill down from big picture into what teams are doing. With Digital.ai Agility, Cerner’s leadership can get a one click view of a release at any point in time. They no longer need to rely on project management via spreadsheets or Vislo, which often contained outdated information and rarely provided the needed level of detail.

Beyond development teams

Non-development teams have even started using Digital.ai Agility for its flexibility and ease of use. Consulting teams apply the agile framework to their existing process and figure out what language to use if epics and features do not work for the team. Similarly, Anderson has been helping client implementation teams leverage lean and kanban for process improvement. He says, “The VersionOne [now Digital.ai Agility] platform helps our business units break their processes into epics and user stories and roll things out much faster.”



About Digital.ai

Digital.ai enables enterprises to focus on outcomes instead of outputs, create greater business value faster, and deliver secure digital experiences their customers trust. The Digital.ai Value Stream Platform seamlessly integrates all the disparate tools and processes across the various value streams, uses data and AI/ML to create connective tissue between them, and provides the real-time, contextual insights required to drive and sustain successful digital transformation. With Digital.ai, enterprises have the visibility they've been seeking to deliver value, drive growth, increase profitability, reduce security risk, and improve customer experience.

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