

Methodology

Software development and design at ACIT focuses on frequent communication and collaboration with the customer and a project management methodology that is adaptive and open to change during the development process. This 'Agile' process allows ACIT to produce carefully tailored software that is better able to meet the customer's needs and is able to tackle problems and ideas which only become apparent as the project is progressed.

Realistic Goals

Rather than produce lengthy design documents early in a project, ACIT focus on defining and prioritising the goals the customer would like to achieve and the problems that should be solved. The first phase of the development process will typically involve one or more informal meetings with customer staff members who will become project 'domain experts'. The outcome of these meetings are a clear project brief and a list of goals, prioritised using the 'MoSCoW' method .

Clear Design

Initial designs will typically consist of a 'Use Case' diagram, which clearly displays who/what interacts with the system and the actions they might perform and clear 'mock-ups' of the screens, pages, reports and print-outs the system produces using Balsamiq. When the customer is happy with the initial design ACIT will internally use best-practice software design using UML.

Customer Collaboration

As the software is developed ACIT will aim to produce frequent releases which can be tested by domain experts and other project stakeholders using ACIT's test environment. This iterative approach compounds software quality, provides peace of mind and allows ACIT to integrate new ideas during development.

Technology

ACIT's software runs on the latest Microsoft .Net 3.5 framework. The .Net framework allows applications to be platform-independent, so the application can be run across tablet PCs, servers, laptops, palm tops and smart-phones with minimal modification.

Where possible ACIT develop web-based software, reducing the time required in deployment and allowing the software to reach a much larger base of users.

*We focus on your IT
so you can focus on your business*

Agile Process:

- **Individuals and interactions** over processes and tools
- **Working software** over comprehensive documentation
- **Customer collaboration** over contract negotiation
- **Responding to change** over following a plan

-Agile Manifesto

MoSCoW Method:

A prioritisation technique used in business analysis and software development to reach a common understanding with stakeholders on the importance they place on the delivery of each requirement

- **M - MUST** have this.
- **S - SHOULD** have this if at all possible.
- **C - COULD** have this if it does not affect anything else.
- **W - WON'T** have this time but WOULD like in the future.

Balsamiq:

"Product managers, designers, developers and even clients can now work together in the same tool to quickly iterate over software mock-ups ,before writing code."

UML:

"the way the world models not only application structure, behaviour, and architecture, but also business process and data structure."

-OMG Consortium

.NET 3.5:

"Visual Studio 2008 and the .NET Framework 3.5 are significant releases that help developers and development teams be more productive, take advantage of the latest platform advances, and collaborate more effectively in delivering solutions."

- S. Somasegar corporate vice president of Development, Microsoft