



Using Lean Principles to Supercharge Agile Software Development

This presentation explores how incorporating Lean principles into your existing Agile practices can transform your software development process, leading to increased efficiency, reduced waste, and faster delivery of high-quality products.



by **kimberly Wiethoff**

What Are Lean Principles?

Eliminate Waste

Focus on removing activities that don't add value to the customer.

Build Quality In

Embed quality checks and practices throughout the process to minimize defects.

Create Knowledge

Encourage learning and adapt processes as you go.

Defer Commitment

Make decisions based on real-time data, avoiding premature commitments.

Deliver Fast

Prioritize speed to deliver value to customers quickly.

Respect People

Empower teams and foster a collaborative environment.

Optimize the Whole

Focus on end-to-end processes, not just individual steps.

Lean Meets Agile: A Perfect Partnership

While Agile focuses on flexibility, iteration, and responsiveness, Lean complements it by enhancing efficiency and ensuring every effort aligns with delivering customer value.





Eliminating Waste in Sprints

- 1 Identify and eliminate bottlenecks in workflows.

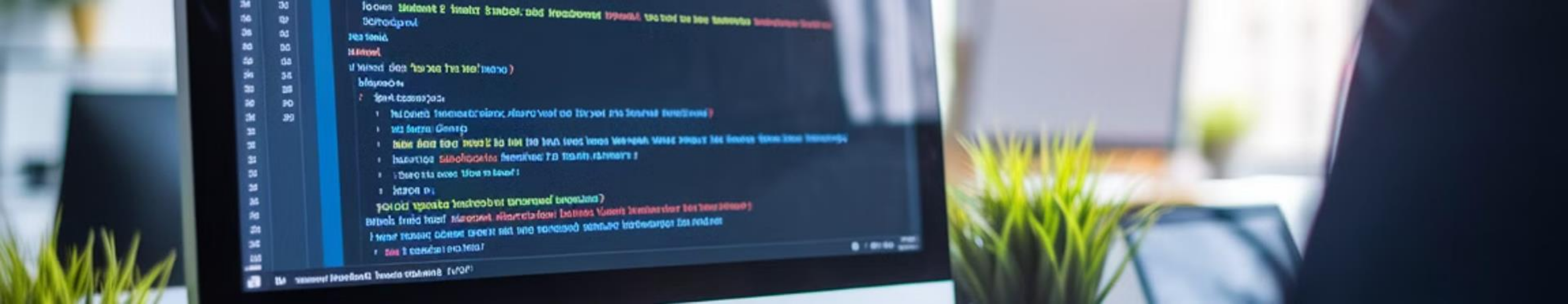
This could involve optimizing task dependencies, streamlining communication, or automating repetitive tasks.

- 2 Avoid overproduction, such as building unnecessary features.

Focus on delivering features that provide real value to customers and avoid developing features that are unlikely to be used or are not aligned with the current sprint goal.

- 3 Minimize context switching by prioritizing work-in-progress limits on Kanban boards.

This helps teams focus on fewer tasks at a time, reducing the time spent switching between different tasks and improving overall productivity.



Building Quality Into Every Iteration

Automated Testing

Automated tests can be run regularly to identify bugs and regressions early in the development process.

Peer Reviews

Having another developer review code before it is merged into the main branch can help catch potential issues and improve code quality.

Continuous Integration

CI pipelines automatically build, test, and deploy code changes, ensuring that code is always in a working state.



Delivering Value Faster



Break down work into smaller increments.

This allows teams to deliver features more quickly and gather feedback sooner.



Prioritize high-value features.

Focus on delivering the features that will have the biggest impact on customers first.



Implement continuous delivery practices.

Automate the release process to reduce lead times and enable faster deployment of new features.



Optimizing the Whole System

1

Identify dependencies across teams.

This helps teams understand how their work impacts other teams and allows for better coordination and communication.

2

Optimize for end-to-end flow.

Focus on reducing bottlenecks and inefficiencies throughout the entire value stream, not just within individual teams.

3

Implement cross-functional collaboration.

Bring together developers, testers, product owners, and other stakeholders to work together on a single goal, improving communication and reducing handoffs.

Empowering Agile Teams



Key Metrics for Lean-Agile Success

Lead Time

Time to Delivery

Time taken from work initiation to delivery.

Cycle Time

Task Completion

Time to complete individual tasks.

Throughput

Completed Tasks

Number of completed tasks in a given period.

CFD

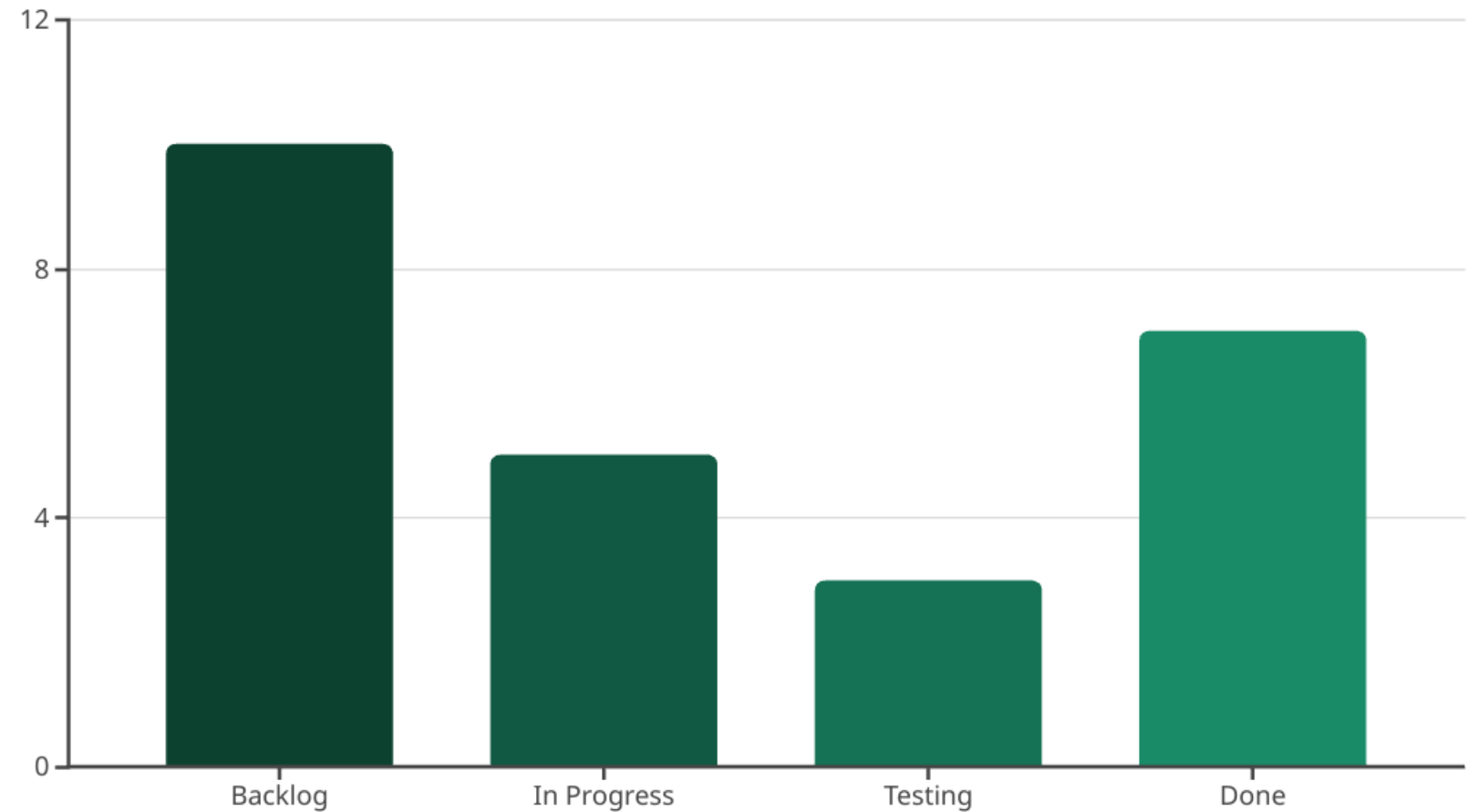
Cumulative Flow Diagram

Visualize work in progress and identify bottlenecks.





Cumulative Flow Diagram



A cumulative flow diagram helps visualize work in progress and identify bottlenecks in the software development process.

Final Thoughts

By integrating Lean principles into your Agile practice, you'll not only eliminate waste but also deliver higher value to your customers, faster. This creates a powerful synergy that enables software development teams to achieve peak performance.

