

# The **Ultimate Tip Sheet** for Picking the **Right IT Project Management Method**

Every project has unique characteristics or parameters that make it stand apart. While some projects are conventional and uncomplicated, others can be extremely complex and full of risk. Even two projects that are seemingly the same in most areas typically have something dissimilar between them that needs to be approached in a different way.

With so many options and details to consider, it can be difficult to know how best to approach a project. While there is no absolutely perfect way to manage IT projects, assessing key components, requirements, and other elements can help you choose an effective methodology that will guide your teams through the workflow in the most efficient way possible.

With target goals and end results in mind, you can select a well-suited methodology and mold it to fit any unique needs, follow along step-by-step, or even utilize multiple methods within the same project to get you where you need to go. To help you determine which is the right approach, here are some tips to guide your discovery of the right IT project management method for your project:



## **Identify Key Factors:**

Understanding special criteria and requirements that the methodology will impact is a critical factor in determining the right approach. These factors could include timeline, resource needs and availability, flexibility requirements, rigidity requirements, budget, complexity, team experience, involvement from decision-makers, just to name a few!



## **Determine Variables:**

Variables are typically a driving force within a project. Carefully considering them against the target goals and end goals of the project can offer impactful details that can help establish your approach.



## **Consider All Methods:**

Within the IT arena, Waterfall, Agile, Scrum, and Hybrid methods are all commonly used, and for different reasons. By assessing these, as well as other potential methods, against each other, you're able to gain a broader perspective on which approaches are most relevant to your specific project.

### **Examine Methodology Advantages and Disadvantages:**

When new methodologies are developed, they're typically designed to fill gaps in areas where already developed methodologies are deficient. With that being said, each methodology is going to have its own set of advantages and disadvantages. Evaluating these against the requirements of your project can give you a sense of which you should consider.

### **Investigate Methodology Risks:**

While each methodology comes with its own set of advantages and disadvantages, depending on the parameters of your project, they also come with different levels of risk. If an improper approach is selected, there can be considerable risk of delays, going over budget, resource depletion, and project failure.

### **Make it a Team Decision:**

Effective collaboration is key to successful endeavors in many areas of business, and selecting an IT project management method is no different. Team members from across the organization can bring forth various perspectives, goals, pain points, and other information to help give a more full-bodied organizational view of project needs and requirements.

### **Keep an Eye on History:**

Factors such as your company's culture and the availability of key decision-makers can influence how well different methodologies work. There's always potential that a methodology was attempted and failed during the development of previous projects within your organization. Conversely, there may be methodologies that were used and worked very well. If it's the former, you may be able to immediately check that one off the list.

### **Align Software with Your Approach:**

Choosing project management software for your IT project can be another challenge in itself. There are many options available with various features, functions, and tools that could be of benefit to your organization based on your needs. But ultimately, it's important that the software's capabilities are able to connect with your approach and vice versa.

Methodologies are certainly not one-size-fits-all solutions, nor should they be decided upon and left to use on multiple projects without further attention. Not only is each project unique, but there are occasional shifts in organizational objectives, structures, and other factors that can alter the effectiveness of traditionally used methodologies. Careful consideration and evaluation of each project management approach should be applied to determine if it's the best approach for each of your IT projects.