



WHITE PAPER

AGILE AND CLOUD DEVELOPMENT TRENDS TO WATCH IN 2019

In search of more effective fulfillment of business strategy, greater speed to market, and competitive advantage, 2018 saw IT teams continue to shift toward agile development and deployment to the cloud. Agile development and its benefits are becoming increasingly familiar, and more organizations have recognized the safety, security, and efficiency of the cloud.

With that context, what trends lie ahead for agile and cloud development in 2019?

Steve Engels

Regional General Manager

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Organizations Migrate to the Cloud Seamlessly

Early on, there was a mistrust of the cloud. But after early adopters like Amazon saw success with its speed and flexibility, there's been a shift toward adopting the cloud and embracing its safety, security, and efficiency.

"The paranoia is due largely to the fact that the approach itself feels insecure, with your data stored on servers and systems you don't own or control," says David Linthicum in an article for [SearchCloudComputing](#).

Not owning your servers doesn't mean your data is insecure. Where your data lives is less important than how you access it. Last year, more CIOs started to realize this, and the mindset changed around security and the cloud.

With that dated mindset in the rearview mirror, large organizations are moving to the cloud. We've seen organizations move portfolios as large as 2,400 applications to cloud environments. With leaders like these setting the pace, 2019 is sure to see a snowball effect of increased migration to the cloud.

Using Agile to Scale Up

In the past year, we've seen companies adopting agile at a large scale – managing entire product portfolios rather than individual projects. This represents a huge mindset shift for many organizations.

The push has been coming from the CIO level. CIOs have struggled with the ability to validate the alignment of key fiscal initiatives with actual business value and needs. If they plan to develop those applications with a traditional "waterfall" process, they run the risk of deploying software that is underused because it does not meet users' requirements or make their lives easier. The value diminishes, and time and money are wasted.

The solution is to align application development with the business and the project owners at the conception phase. This is the foundation of agile development. And the value of this alignment is magnified when adopted at the portfolio level, which is what large organizations started to realize in 2018.

To execute on this vision, Magenic employs the Scaled Agile Framework (SAFe), which helps business and IT teams align to deliver excellent software across large numbers of agile teams. It is through this collaboration that business goals are addressed and achieved.

People think of agile delivery as working better, but it's also a crucial component of working faster. "Going agile" means more collaborative working opportunities, creative solutions, and efficiency within teams, to get your application to market quickly.

Continuous Integration and Deployment Becomes Standard

The past year we saw more organizations adopt DevOps best practices, such as automating CI/CD (continuous integration and continuous deployment). We expect this trend to continue in 2019, as it's a powerful way to bring agile-developed software to market faster. Unfortunately, it's a path too many organizations neglect.

When it comes to "going agile," the lowest-hanging fruit is at the team level; making sure the product owner is representing the business effectively and working through backlog. Team structure and the collaborative process are the heart of agile development. Paying attention to the later part of the process and automating CI/CD is a great way to realize the ultimate speed benefit of agile development.

"CI/CD pipelines are the fastest way to production. They enable devs to easily build, package, integrate, test, and release code by automating manual, error-prone steps," said Sezgin Küçükaraaslan in the [SD Times](#).

To speed software deployment, Magenic partners with cloud product innovators to help clients design, develop, and modernize applications.

Cloud Enablers Will Help You Maximize Your Value

With increased cloud migration as a foundation, we'll see more organizations looking to mature and refine their deployment practices. To do so, they'll be tapping into a growing number of "cloud enablers" coming onto the market – tools that help organizations extract maximum value from cloud applications. One such provider is Pivotal, [a key partner](#) for Magenic. With Pivotal Cloud Foundry, developers can write one application and easily deploy to any or all of the major cloud hosting providers.

Key Agile Roles Accentuated at Scale

The product owner moves into a key role as an organization scales up with agile. The fuel the product owners provide will determine if the project succeeds.

As agile development grows from individual products to portfolio-level management, the roles of the various product owners come under even greater pressure. In addition to driving their own products, they need to collaborate with each other to make decisions that help the organization push for velocity and accomplish business goals.



The fuel for your agile development engine are user stories that define the development of your application. Good fuel requires effective collaboration and communication from the beginning. This is one of the many reasons the role of the product owner is so crucial. The person in this role needs a vision for the product to ensure the team's work is aligned with the voice of the customer and is connected between IT and business. This is where Magenic shines. We've honed our agile process and continuously work with clients to help product owner effectiveness improve.

Agile is easy to learn but can be difficult to master. The year ahead holds great potential for even more exciting breakthroughs, and we're excited to be a part of pushing the market forward. If your organization is looking to embrace agile processes to get to market faster, Magenic can help. Our player/coach model brings in practitioners to help teach effective agile practices. If you'd like more information, [contact us](#) today.



About Magenic

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